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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THERE is really only one topic of the day just now; or, at least, there is one—that of iron-plated vessels, gun-boats, shield-ships, and floating-batteries—to which all others are made subordinate. Unfortunately, before the present Number of our Journal meets the eye of the public, the subject will have been so thoroughly discussed that no remarks which we can now offer in connection with it are likely to possess the interest of novelty.

The principal result, from a scientific point of view, of the recent battle of Newport News is the practical demonstration that a steam-vessel cased in iron, with a sharp prow of the same material, can pierce and split open a wooden ship as certainly as Mr. Windham, armed simply with a spoon, could crack any one of the dozen-and-a-half eggs which he is accused of having devoured habitually at his morning repast. Whether a steel-beaked battering-ship, like the Merrimac, can pierce many wooden ships without splitting her own ribs by the very force of the concussion, has yet to be proved; nor is it at all clear that a vessel such as the Merrimac could run over and sink (to penetrate would, probably, be quite out of the question) an iron gun-boat like the Monitor, which, apparently, when it is pushed, simply moves, cork-fashion, out of the way.

In comparing the performances of the frigate Merrimac with those of the gun-boat Monitor, it must be remembered that hitherto the latter has done nothing but defend itself—against a formidable adversary, it is true; but defence is all that it has accomplished nevertheless. The Merrimac, on the other hand, has had the honour and advantage of utterly destroying one enemy in the most prompt manner, and of causing another to surrender at a discretion

not by any means to be disapproved of. To say, then, that the Monitor is anything like as terrible an assailant as the Merrimac, would be at least premature, if not entirely erroneous. But, on the other hand, it is clear that the Monitor is one of the most servicable, formidable, and apparently inassailable, inexpugnable floating-batteries ever devised. Doubtless the steel-beaked, iron-cased frigate, and the hat-shaped floating-battery, with its circular revolving shooting-apparatus, will be found to have each its peculiar advantages;

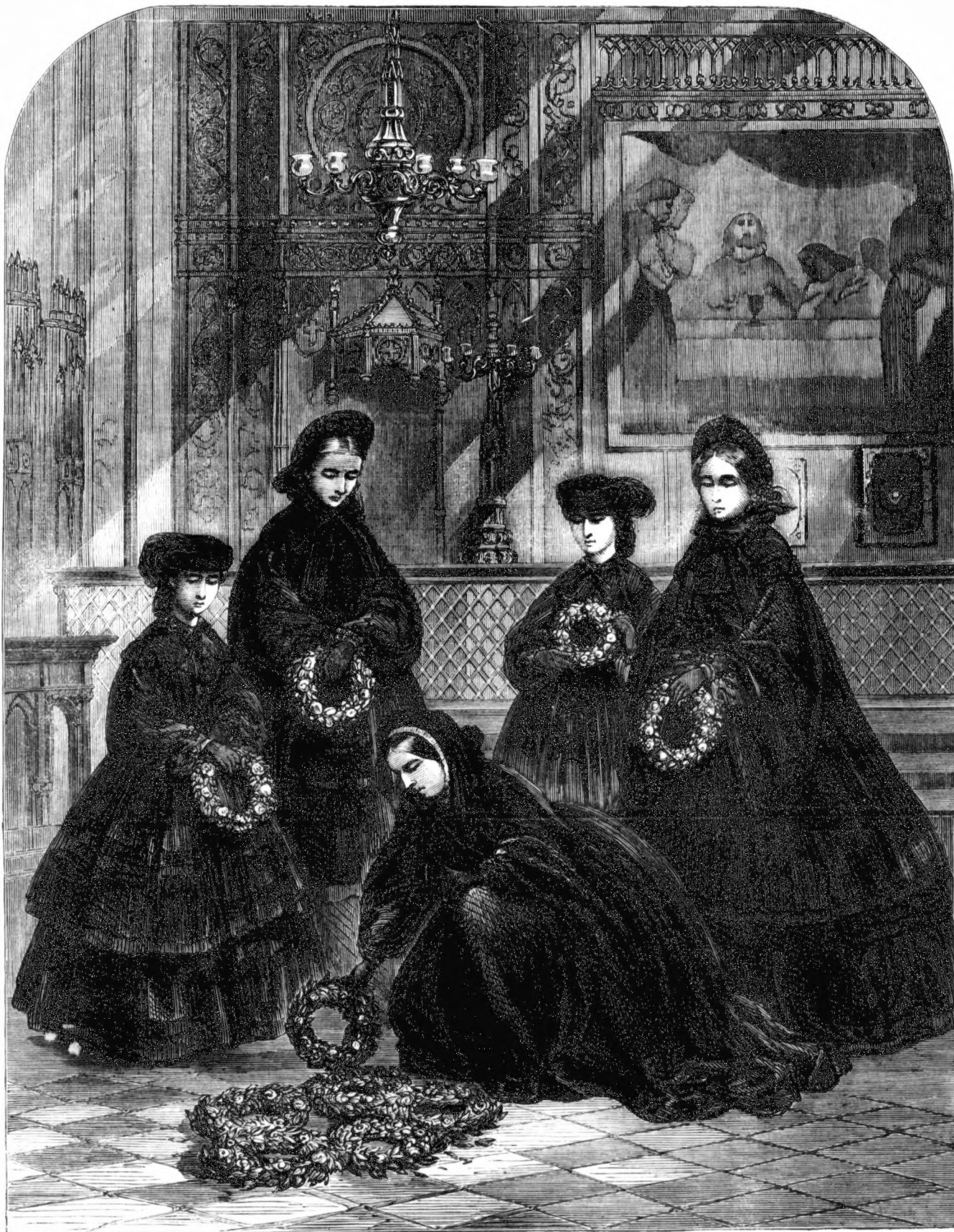
and we may be sure that the merits of both models (neither of them strangers to us) will be sufficiently studied in England. Already, indeed, the attention of a Committee of the House of Commons has been directed to the subject; and all the inventors of new cannons, new cannon-apparatus, and new iron ships, shields, or rams, are writing about it daily to the newspapers.

Formerly a Ministry would have stuck to its revised code or have gone out. In these degenerate days it prefers to re-revise its revised code and remain in. Perhaps the country gains something from time to time by the new mode of Ministerial operation, but it certainly detracts a great deal from the interest felt in party politics.

As regards questions of high importance, domestic as well as foreign, there is no great difference just now between the views of the Conservative and those of the Whig party. With respect to foreign politics, neither Whigs nor Conservatives have any great faith in the French alliance. Neither are opposed to the Italians, but at the same time neither would be inclined to go to war on their behalf. The Conservative Earl of Carnarvon and the Whig Earl Russell appear to have precisely the same views on the subject of Poland and of Russia, pitying the former and yet admiring the latter; while as for Hungary, really the claims of Hungary concern no one in this country in the least, and nobody cares about them at all, for the simple reason that constitutional Government is within their reach at any moment, and that, by refusing to grasp it, they deprive all the other "nationalities" in the Austrian empire of its advantages. It is curious, by-the-way, that while the *Times* gives its best support to Hungary, a country with which we never were in any way connected, it loses no opportunity of insulting Poland, to defend whose interests, up to a certain point, we are bound by the treaties of 1815.

But we were about to observe that since there are no great domestic or foreign differences between her Majesty's Government and "her Majesty's Opposition," the country will probably before long get into the habit of judging them

by their administrative qualifications, and it is certain that of late the actual Government has shown remarkable incapacity in all the administrative reforms which it has undertaken, and, above all, in its much talked of "revised code." From a speculative point of view, much might be said in favour of Mr. Lowe's scheme, which, like so many plans of purely bureaucratic origin, looks very ingenious, though it evidently would not have worked. As this, at last, has been virtually acknowledged by the author himself, it is scarcely worth while



VISIT OF HER MAJESTY AND THE PRINCESSES TO THE PLACE OF INTERMENT OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT, ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR.

That very disagreeable topic, "the Revised Code," is now pretty nearly, if not entirely, exhausted. Great concessions have been made by its authors and supporters, and to the great disgust of its opponents, who did not at all care about the "code" in question being revised once more, so as to adapt it to the alleged requirements of our system of popular education, but wished rather to make it a stumbling-block in the way of the present Government. Party fights are certainly not conducted now as chivalrously as they used to be,



to enter now into any discussion on the point. All we feel inclined to say about it is that, though a Government doubtless deserves praise for withdrawing an obnoxious and impossible measure so as to remodel it, this is not a kind of praise to which it can afford to entitle itself very often.

The news from Italy is not very promising. Certainly there is nothing reassuring in the letters from the *Times* correspondent at Turin, who is known to be an Italian in a good Parliamentary position and thoroughly versed in all the mysteries of Italian politics. "United Italy," with Naples, if not disaffected, at least full of all kinds of hostile intrigues and the scene of perpetual riots, with Rome occupied by the French, and with Venetia in the hands of the Austrians, is about as "united" as the States of the same title in America. Austria hates this new Italy for many reasons, and above all because she regards it as having been formed to a great extent out of property stolen from her. France likes it on condition only that it shall remain weak, disunited, and perpetually under the pressure of the Gallic thumb. We speak now of the French Government, and not of the French people, who, we believe, like the people of England, are animated by a sincere sympathy and love for the Italians, and persuaded that these feelings are shared by their highly-diplomatic, and in a certain sense patriotic but not by any means sentimental, chief.

From Russia and Poland the news is, as usual, contradictory. Thus we are informed, from day to day, through telegrams based on announcements published in the Russian official journals, of wonderful reforms accomplished by the Emperor, such as the removal of certain unimportant Jewish disabilities, the modification of the censorship in Finland (where no one cares what journals are published or who reads them); the abolition of the censorship in Russia Proper as regards the works issued by scientific bodies (which from their nature are not in the habit of occupying themselves with politics); and the publication of an edict conceived in an unexampled spirit of liberality by which the Government consents to receive from landed proprietors in payment of interest on loans advanced to them on mortgage the very pieces of paper which the Government has issued to the proprietors by way of indemnity for the land conceded by them to their peasants. This sort of reform-intelligence, issued at the rate of about two reforms a week, has a fine effect when not too closely examined into. But taken altogether it amounts to very little, especially when we find at the same time that private reformers—so to describe them—about the liberality of whose tendencies there can be no mistake, are being constantly arrested. When they are safe in prison, a paragraph is put into one of the Government journals saying that they have been placed under lock and key for having thrown obstacles in the way of the emancipation of the serfs. This is telegraphed to England by the ingenious "Mr. Reuter," and the liberality of the Emperor Alexander is admired more than ever.

THE QUEEN AT PRINCE ALBERT'S GRAVE.

THERE would seem to be a natural and beautiful instinct in the human heart which leads us to associate flowers with the last resting-places of those we have loved and lost, and the feeling is as old as it is universal. Arviragus, in "Cymbeline," touchingly exclaims over the inanimate form of Fidele,

With fairest flowers,
Whilest summer lasts, and I live here, Fidele,
I'll sweeten thy sad grave;

and the impulse which prompted the vow is common to the inhabitant of the palace and the cottage, of the hamlet and the city. In the "country churchyard," as in the city cemetery, pious hands have to deck the graves of the departed with flowers. On the Continent, and especially in France, the practice of strewing wreaths of *immortelles* on the tombs of deceased relatives is almost universal, and is most piously attended to by both rich and poor. That the highest in position share this fine and becoming sentiment with those of less exalted rank is proved by the fact that her Majesty's last act ere leaving Windsor was to place bouquets upon the temporary grave of her late lamented husband; and on the second day after her return from Osborne, in the dusk of evening, when all was still and quiet, the Queen, accompanied by the Princesses, again visited the spot and deposited fresh flowers upon the Prince Consort's tomb—an act which has since been more than once repeated. May the performance of this pious rite have been as consoling to the Royal mourners as it was becoming and natural!

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN EGYPT.—A letter dated Alexandria, March 21, says intelligence had been received that his Royal Highness had reached Thebes on his way back to Cairo, where he was expected within a few days. The party had proceeded up the Nile to the first cataract, the limit of their voyage, according to the usual plan of travellers, with as little delay as possible, though not without the incidents of sandbanks and rocks, which at this late season render the navigation of the rapidly-sinking river so difficult. The first sight of an Egyptian temple which the Prince enjoyed was at Eneh, where, during the necessary halt by night on the upward voyage, the grand Roman portico of that temple was well seen by torch light. From Assuan he visited Philæ, the holy island, on the frontiers of Egypt and Nubia; and, after exploring its picturesque groups of temples, returned the same day to Assuan, and immediately commenced the descent of the river. Edfoin, which within the last few years has been entirely cleared away, by order of the Viceroy, now presents a complete plan—the only one in existence—of an Egyptian temple, and thus affords to travellers in Upper Egypt something of the same information which could formerly be obtained only by the sight of the rock temple of Abou Simbul, in Nubia. This instructive example of Egyptian architecture was the first which the Prince witnessed on his downward voyage, and was a good preparation for the magnificent confusion of Thebes, which he reached on the night of the 15th, with the intention of remaining three days. The first was spent on the opposite side of the river, among the ruins of Karnak, and, the day being Sunday, his Royal Highness and suite attended Divine service, which was performed in the great hall of that splendid temple by the Rev. Professor Stanley. The second and third days were to be devoted to the temples and tombs on the western bank, after which his Royal Highness intended to return to Cairo, visiting the chief objects of interest on his way. The weather had been singularly propitious. The southernmost limit of his Royal Highness's voyage was marked by the portent of a cloudy day and a rainy night—unusual at all times in Upper Egypt, and especially rare so late in the season. The Prince had also been enabled to combine his love of sport with the other objects of his tour, especially at Edfou and between Eneh and Thebes. The health of the Prince and his suite continued unimpaired. The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg arrived at Thebes from Cairo on the same day as the Prince of Wales arrived from Assuan, and the uncle and nephew had thus an opportunity of meeting for a few hours on the banks of the Nile. Latest accounts state that the Prince had returned to Cairo, and started for Alexandria en route for the Holy Land.

THE NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION has received from "A Friend" a Bank of England note for £200.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

It appears to be settled that the Emperor will visit London at the opening of the Exhibition. Six ships of the navy have been ordered to attend his Majesty from Cherbourg.

Notwithstanding repeated denials in the semi-official journals, rumours of Ministerial changes are prevalent in Paris. M. Thouvenel, it is said, is heartily tired of the contradictory policy he is required to carry out, and wishes to retire. The motive for the sudden return of M. de Lavalette to Paris is a subject of much speculation. It is generally believed to be a misunderstanding between him and General de Goyon; and it is asserted that M. de Lavalette persists in his refusal to return to Rome unless General de Goyon is recalled. From these presumed retirements the political circles assume that a variety of other changes will result—among others, that M. Walewski will take his old place in the Foreign Office.

The extraordinary Budget of M. Fould has been laid before the French Chambers. It amounts to nearly 139,000,000*fr.* The unpopular extra taxes on sugar and salt are maintained, and will, no doubt, meet with much opposition in the Corps Législatif.

SPAIN.

The Spaniards are making preparations to evacuate Tetuan, as it is expected that the Emperor of Morocco will shortly be enabled to fulfil his engagements.

A Royal decree has been issued increasing by six million reals the yearly redemption of the passive debt, commencing from January, 1863.

PORTUGAL.

The Ministry has been reconstructed, Senhor Braancamp being appointed Minister of Finance; Senhor Avila, Minister of Public Works; and Senhor Alves Martins, Minister of the Interior. The Tagus, from Liverpool, has been lost at Figuera.

ITALY.

The Italian Ministry is at last announced to be definitively constituted. Contrary to all expectation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not retained in the charge of the Premier, but is confided to General Durando. Signor Rattazzi himself remains President of the Council, having also the portfolio of the Interior. Signor Confetti becomes Minister of Justice, and Signor Matteucci enters upon the Department of Public Instruction. The Ministers Sella, Pepoli, Depretis, Persano, and Pettini retain the functions confided to them on the formation of the present Cabinet. Cordova and Mancini have resigned.

On Sunday Garibaldi arrived at Parma and met with the usual enthusiastic reception. He alluded to the accession of Rome and Venice, saying the people of Parma had given him numerous companions, and should occasion arise would, doubtless, provide him with more. He has intimated that he will presently visit Naples, and subsequently Palermo. It is generally believed that the Bourbon party meditate another spring campaign among the mountains of the Neapolitan provinces, and it is even said that General Bosco is to take the command of the enterprise. However, La Marmora, who has the military command of Naples, has intimated, it is said, that he requires no reinforcements, and that the projects and movements of the Bourbonians are not likely to call for any extraordinary effort to counteract them.

AUSTRIA.

Lord Bloomfield, it appears, has been engaged in an attempt to reconcile the Emperor of Austria and his Hungarian subjects. His Lordship made a journey to Pesth, where he remained three days, and then returned to Vienna. A letter from Vienna, dated the 24th ult., says:—

The object of his Lordship's visit to Pesth was a mission from the Austrian Cabinet, or rather a mission from the Emperor Francis Joseph, which was transmitted to him by Count Rechberg. It was to make another attempt at a rapprochement between Austria and Hungary. It appears that Lord Bloomfield addressed his propositions to M. Francis Deak, but it is not certain that he had any personal interview with the chief of the party of the Address. I am informed that Count George Karolyi acted as intermediary between M. Deak and the British Ambassador. As regards the tenor of the proposals made, I cannot say anything exactly, but it is supposed that the Emperor—who, it may be observed, does not share all the views of M. de Schmerling respecting Hungary—would recognise to a certain point the Hungarian Constitution if, in that case, the Diet would consent to send delegates, not to the Council of the Empire, but to a commission chosen from within that Assembly, so as to fix by common agreement the basis of an understanding between Hungary and Austria. I give you this as a supposition based upon certain facts which I believe to be authentic. However it may be, Lord Bloomfield does not appear to have had any better success than Count Apponyi and other official intermediaries.

PRUSSIA.

The electors of Prussia are making a firm stand against the threats and intimidation of the Government. They regret to find their King misled by the feudal and military party into making an attack on the Constitution of which he has so often boasted, but they are, nevertheless, resolved to uphold it by all lawful means. An assembly of 2000 electors was held at Cologne on the 25th ult., whereat resolutions were passed approving of the conduct of the deputies who voted for M. Hagen's proposition, which was asserted to be a constitutional right the exercise of which in no way encroached on the rights of the Crown. From Berlin we learn that the statute in regard to meetings and associations, which was introduced by the Mantoufel Ministry, and which had fallen into complete disuse, has been put into force again. At every political or even commercial meeting a police agent is now in attendance.

GERMANY AND DENMARK.

The Danish Ambassador to the Federal Diet has delivered a written protest to the President of the Diet against a resolution of the Assembly, adopted at the instance of Austria and Prussia, which sanctioned the principle of intervention on the part of the Confederation in the internal affairs of the Duchy of Schleswig, though placed by international treaties entirely out of the power of Germany. He also declined to accept the resolutions on the part of the Danish Government, and the Diet, therefore, resolved to communicate its determination to the Court of Denmark through the Russian Minister at Copenhagen. The leading journal of Copenhagen characterises the resolutions of the Diet as exceedingly significant and dangerous to Denmark.

The Electoral Hesse question came before the German Diet on the 27th ult., when the representative of the Elector objected to the proposition of Austria and Prussia that it was not clear in its meaning on several points. When these ambiguities are removed, which can easily be done, it is to be presumed the Elector will bow to the decision of the Diet and restore to his subjects their constitutional rights.

TURKEY AND THE HERZEGOVINA.

The success of the Turkish loan in London has given great satisfaction, and in consequence the Sultan had appropriated nineteen millions of piastres from his privy purse to pay the arrears due to the troops and had given orders for providing the army with clothing at his own cost.

On Monday, the 24th ult., a serious engagement took place at Kojusko, between 4000 bashi-bazouks and 2000 insurgents. Both parties sustained severe losses. The insurgents withdrew to the mountains.

The insurgents of the Herzegovina are reported to have destroyed several villages in Albania by fire and sword and massacred the Turkish inhabitants, sparing the lives only of Christian residents.

GREECE.

Notwithstanding reports that Nauplia had surrendered, and that the leaders of the insurrection who had not been amnestied had fled, it appears that the Royal troops have not yet obtained possession of the fortress and are not likely to do so for some time, as it is asserted that the citadel will yet be able to hold out four months. The men within it will only treat with the King, and demand the dismissal of the Ministry, the dissolution of the Chamber, the arming of the National Guard, and the appointment of a successor to the throne.

Disturbances took place at Athens in the night between the 15th and 16th ult., which, however, were suppressed, and numerous arrests were made.

INDIA.

Lord Elgin has arrived at Calcutta, and assumed the government of India on the 13th ult. Lord Canning was to leave for England on the 19th. A native meeting in honour of the ex-Viceroy had been held in Calcutta. Mr. Laing, in his speech on the abolition of the license tax, said that the import duties on Manchester goods would be done away with, if possible, at the end of the financial year.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

GENERAL NEWS.

THE intelligence from America is still replete with Federal successes. On the Potomac the Federals had occupied Dumfries, but the bulk of General McClellan's army had retired to their old position, while a part were being embarked at Alexandria for some expedition the object of which was unknown. General Burnside's expedition had taken Newbern, in North Carolina, after an engagement which lasted four hours. A large amount of war material and 200 prisoners fell into the hands of the captors. The Confederates, who are said to have amounted to 10,000 men, retreated by the Railway to Goldsborough, burning the bridges behind them. The capture of Jacksonville and St. Augustine, in Florida, by Commodore Dupont, is officially reported. New Madrid, in the West, has also been occupied by the Federals, and it is reported that twenty-five pieces of heavy artillery (24-pounders and rifled), thirty-two batteries of field artillery, an immense quantity of ammunition, several thousand smallarms, hundreds of boxes of musket-cartridges, 300 mules, tents for an army of 12,000 men, and an immense quantity of other property of not less value than a million of dollars, have fallen into the hands of the Federals, only the men themselves escaping, which they were aided in doing undiscovered by a heavy thunderstorm. Preparations were being made for the reduction of Savannah, and, when that is accomplished, of Mobile also. Commander Foote, with a flotilla of gun-boats, had been engaged in attacking Island No. 10 on the Mississippi, and it was even reported that the island had been captured. This report, however, was premature. General Beauregard was in command of the Confederates here, and had issued an address calling upon the soldiers to nerve themselves to retrieve the late disasters.

The recent naval engagement has roused public attention to the necessity of providing iron-clad ships, and it is proposed that Boston, Philadelphia, and New York shall unite in building a number of sufficient strength to resist the Merrimac or other batteries.

It was reported that Mr. Yancey had been captured in a schooner attempting to run the blockade. This, however, is doubtful, as a despatch from Nashville asserts that he had arrived at New Orleans.

During the discussion on the bill for the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, Senator Doolittle (a leading Republican) declared he would favour no emancipation scheme which did not provide for the colonisation of the negroes. He argued that in the temperate zone the Caucasian race would always dominate. "In the tropics," said Mr. Doolittle, "the coloured race is dominant. This is Nature's law. The repugnance in America to living side by side with negroes is not, as asserted by some, mere prejudice, but a true instinct of Nature." He contended that every pledge of the Republican party in 1860 was against interfering with slavery in the States, and that they could not emancipate slaves. It was their duty to encourage emigration to Hayti and Liberia, and they should look at a map of the American continent, and direct legislation for the good of all races and all mankind.

The Judiciary Committee of the Senate has recommended the adoption of a resolution in accordance with President Lincoln's late Message, recommending pecuniary assistance to be given to States desirous of abolishing slavery.

GENERAL McCLELLAN'S ADDRESS TO THE ARMY.

General McClellan has issued an address to the army of the Potomac, in which he says:—

I have held you till now inactive in order that you might give a death-blow to the rebellion. Formidable artillery you now have had created, and the Potomac army is now a real army, magnificent in matériel, admirable in discipline and construction, and excellently well armed and equipped. The moment for action has arrived.

I know I can trust in you to save the country. The period for inaction is past. I will bring you now face to face with the rebels, and only pray that God may defend the right.

In whatever direction you may move, however strange my actions may appear, bear in mind that my fate is linked with yours. All I do to bring you where you wish to be—on a decisive battle-field. It is my business to place you there. It shall be my care—it ever has been—to gain success with the least possible loss. I know that, if necessary, you will follow me to our graves for the righteous cause.

God smiles upon us! Victory attends us! Yet I would not have you think that our aim is to be attained without a manly struggle. I will not disguise it from you that you have brave foes to encounter; foemen well worthy of the steel that you will use so well.

I shall demand of you great and heroic exertion—rapid and long marches—privations, perhaps. We will share all these together, and, when this war is over, we will all return to our homes, and feel that we can ask no higher honour than the proud consciousness that we belong to the Army of the Potomac.

Much dissatisfaction was being expressed with the tactics of General McClellan, and it was even expected from day to day that he would be deprived of his command.

THE NEW POSITION OF THE CONFEDERATES IN VIRGINIA.

The Baltimore (Maryland) correspondent of a New York paper gives the following particulars as to the position taken up by the Confederates after their retreat from Centreville and Manassas:—

I have been put in possession of the following facts in regard to the present position and probable movements of the late rebel army of the Potomac. If true, as I have every reason to believe, they show that that army, nearly 175,000 strong, has been withdrawn to a line that can be defended, for two weeks at least, with half its force, while the other half is to be used for active and immediate offensive operations. It is stated here, on good authority, that a week before the evacuation proper had commenced, General Jos. E. Johnston had detached 25,000 of his best troops by railroad to Suffolk and Weldon, in order to co-operate with another rebel army, near the latter place, in an attack on General Burnside; and that after the evacuation, and after seeing his troops in the proper position on the new defensive line, General Johnston went down to Weldon to take command of the movement, leaving the command of the army on the Rapidan to General Gustavus Smith. It is also said here that while the Merrimac is the largest, she is by no means the only vessel of the kind or the most effective one that the Confederates have; that they have no less than eight of these impenetrable sea monsters nearly ready, and that in a few days they will set sail in company and inflict a blow upon the North which will entirely change the present aspect of the war. It is asserted positively that the Merrimac is not at all injured, but that she is being fitted with additional apparatus which will enable her to carry off the Monitor as a prize.

In spite of all that has been said to the contrary, the Confederates are amply able to maintain their second line of defence, along the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, against the advance of the Union army. They have 100,000 troops distributed along this line, as follows:—5000 at the upper ford of the Rapidan, where the road from Fort Royal and Manassas Gap to the town of Orange (through Madison) crosses that stream; 20,000 at the junction of the same stream with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and at the second ford, immediately below; 5000 at the town of Orange; 5000 at Gordonsville; 10,000 at a point on the Rapidan, seven

miles north-east of the railroad bridge, at the junction just named, where the road from Warren to Louisa (through Culpepper) crosses the stream on a wooden bridge; 5000 at Germania, where the road from Rappahannock to Bowling Green crosses the Rapidan; 5000 at Ely's Ford, four miles from the mouth of the north branch of the Rappahannock; 5000 at Falmouth; 20,000 at Fredericksburg; 10,000 in front of Newport; and 10,000 at Port Royal: all these compose part of the late army of the Potomac.

The principal fortifications along the rivers are at the points named above. The most extensive are those at Fredericksburg. On these works the labour of 1000 blacks and 5000 soldiers was expended from the middle of May till the 25th of July last. They are now mounted with part of the guns brought from the Potomac River batteries, and it is said that the gunners are sheltered by casemates. The right bank of the river, between Fredericksburg and Port Royal, consists of high bluffs, averaging from 15 to 30 ft. high, and for the most part with nearly precipitous sides. The river is 500 or 600 ft. wide and 16 to 20 ft. deep. It is, therefore, not to be supposed that the Union army could cross between these two points, particularly as the engineers of the rebel army have crowned these bluffs with several strong batteries. For miles around Bowling Green, too, and between that place and Port Royal, the nature of the ground is such (being filled with deep swamps and morasses) that no army could move there. Higher up the river, between Germania and Fredericksburg, there is a series of deep ravines running at right angles with the stream, the intervening ranges being covered with stunted pines. Among or along these ravines artillery cannot operate, and without artillery the Union army cannot move. From Germania to the head waters of the Rapidan, and for a distance of from three to five miles south of the stream, the country is an exact counterpart of that just south-west of Washington—namely, ranges of high hills, thickly wooded, and with ravines or passes between.

The natural defences of the line above indicated have been improved to the utmost by the rebel Generals, who for months past have contemplated the moment when they would be compelled to abandon Manassas.

Deserters report the Confederates to be evacuating Fredericksburg and preparing to burn the bridges over the Rappahannock River; also, that large bodies of Confederates were going down the James and York Rivers to Norfolk. The same authority says that there are no fortifications at Fredericksburg, or any between that place and the outskirts of Richmond.

THE EXPEDITION TO MEXICO.

We have intelligence from Vera Cruz to the 7th ult. Preliminaries of peace had been agreed on, and ratified by President Juarez. The greater portion of the allied troops were in consequence, it was stated, about to be withdrawn from Mexican soil. All the British troops had embarked, except 100, who remain. The health of the troops in Vera Cruz is reported to be bad. The following is the text of the convention agreed upon:—

1. Whereas the Constitutional Government that has actual jurisdiction in the Mexican Republic has informed the commissioners of the allied Powers that it does not need the assistance that they have so benevolently offered to the Mexican people, because that people contains in itself sufficient elements of strength and opinion to preserve itself from any internal revolt, the Allies will resort to treaties to present in form all the reclamations that they are charged to make in the name of their respective nations.

2. To this end, and protesting, as the representative of the allied nations do protest, that they have no intent to injure the Sovereignty or integrity of the Mexican Republic, negotiations shall be opened in Orizaba, to which city the commissioners of the allied Powers and the Ministers of the Republic shall repair, unless by common consent delegates shall be named by both parties.

3. During the negotiations the forces of the allied Powers shall occupy the cities of Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan.

4. In order that there may not be the slightest supposition that the Allies have signed these preliminaries in order to procure admission to the fortified positions now garrisoned by the Mexican army, it is stipulated that in the unhappy event of the rupture of negotiations the allied forces shall retire from the aforesaid positions and shall take up position in a line before said fortifications on the road to Vera Cruz, the extreme points being the Paso Ancho, on the Cordova road, and the Paso de Oveja, on the Jalapa road.

5. In case the negotiations shall unhappily be discontinued and the allies retire to the prescribed lines, the hospitals of the Allies shall remain under the safeguard of the Mexican nation.

6. Upon the day that the Allies commence their march to occupy the points mentioned in article 3 the Mexican flag shall be hoisted in the city of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa.

La Soledad, Feb. 19, 1862.

The Conde de Reus, MANUEL DOBLADO,
CHARLES LENNON WHITE, HUGH DUNLOP,
A. DE SALIGNY, E. JURIEU.

I approve these preliminaries in the exercise of the full powers with which I am invested. BENITO JUAREZ, President of the Republic.

The allied Plenipotentiaries fixed their residence in Orizaba, where the conferences were to begin on April 1.

It appears that disagreements had arisen among the representatives of the Allies, and it is asserted that an open rupture had taken place between the French and Spaniards. This statement receives countenance from the following notice, which appeared in the official journal of Paris on Wednesday:—

The Spanish papers assert that the Government of the Emperor had requested the Cabinet of Madrid to recall General Prim. This news is entirely false. The French Government confined itself to expressing its disapproval of the convention concluded between Generals Prim and Doblado, and afterwards accepted by the Plenipotentiaries of the Allies, because this convention appeared to it to be contrary to the dignity of France. M. Saligny has, in consequence, been alone intrusted with the full political powers with which Admiral Jurieu de la Gravière was invested. Admiral Jurieu de la Gravière has received orders to reassume simply the command of the naval division.

The Madrid papers assert that Spain, too, has disapproved of the convention, and the result will probably be that the document in question will be set aside and the work begun *de novo*. In that case, the withdrawal of the allied troops will have been somewhat premature.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

CEREMONIAL TO BE OBSERVED AT THE STATE OPENING.

The following programme of the ceremonial to be observed at the opening of the Exhibition has been made public. It will be observed that the day on which the ceremony is to take place is not mentioned, and this has given rise to some speculation as to whether matters will be sufficiently forward at the building to admit of the State opening taking place on the 1st of May, as intended; but it is probable that the day fixed will be adhered to, even though the fitting up in the interior and the arrangement of the goods may not be completed:—

The Queen, being anxious to mark her interest in the success of an undertaking in promoting which the Prince Consort had taken a most active part, has notified her wish that the opening of the Exhibition should bear as much as possible the character of a national ceremony. Her Majesty has therefore been pleased, under the present impossibility of herself performing that ceremony, to appoint his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, K.G., his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord High Chancellor, the Earl of Derby, K.G., the Lord Chamberlain, and Viscount Palmerston, K.G., G.C.B., to be her representatives to conduct it in her name.

I. Her Majesty's Ministers and the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 will attend in the procession, and her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition will invite the Royal and distinguished persons at the head of the respective foreign commissions and the foreign Ambassadors and Ministers accredited to this country to take part in the ceremony.

II. Her Majesty's Commissioners will seek the co-operation of the guarantors of the Exhibition, jurors, members of both Houses of Parliament, heads of the Church, universities, law, Army, Navy, Volunteers, the municipalities, scientific and artistic institutions, the local and other committees aiding the exhibition, &c., in giving to the State opening a national character. For such persons there will be a number of reserved seats, but the number is necessarily limited. Whilst desiring to meet the wishes of all, Her Majesty's Commissioners must reserve to themselves full power of dealing with the arrangements according to their discretion. Her Majesty's Commissioners request that gentlemen occupying officially reserved seats will appear in uniform, official, or Court dress.

III. The principal ceremonies will take place under the two domes and along the whole length of the nave. The official reception of her Majesty's representatives and distinguished visitors taking part in the ceremonial will be held in the central south court. The procession will start from this point and proceed to the west dome. Here will be a chair of state, and, after a verse of the National Anthem has been sung, an address will be received. The procession will then move down the nave to the east dome, where the musical performances will take place, after which the procession

will return to the throne at the west dome, a prayer will be offered by the Bishop of London, and the Hallelujah Chorus and the National Anthem will be sung. The opening of the exhibition will be declared by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. Military bands will be stationed in the south central court.

By order of her Majesty's Commissioners,
International Exhibition, March 28. F. R. SANDFORD, Secretary.

PROGRESS MAKING WITH THE BUILDING.

The fitting up of the interior of the building is being pushed on with great vigour, and much progress has been made within the last few days. Counters, stalls, partitions, &c., are springing up in all directions, and the arrangement of the articles for exhibition is now beginning, in some departments, to assume something like form and method. Still, however, there is a vast deal to do, and the energies of all concerned will be fully taxed to get matters in order for the opening day.

The deliveries of goods are still occupying the attention of the superintendents on the British and foreign sides of the building; and early and late the cranes, the book-keepers, the luggage-barrows, and the labourers, are employed in the work of unloading the industrial treasures. Up to Tuesday night the British office had received nearly 13,000 cases and fittings, and the foreign office about 7000. The day on which the carriages are to be received has been fixed for the 13th of April, and it is therefore hoped that any miscellaneous British cases will be safely lodged before that date.

The picture-galleries on the British side are more than two-thirds hung with works in oil and water colour, and about the middle of the month the press will be officially admitted to give a detailed account of this strong point of the exhibition. The artists generally have asked permission to come in and dust or varnish their works before they are shown, and, with the consent of the various owners of the pictures, this request will doubtless be granted. Of course, nothing like retouching will be allowed. The statuary has not yet made its appearance, and, as it is to play a new and important part in the display, its arrival is anxiously expected. With the exception of one room devoted to the works of deceased artists—in which many fine works of Flaxman, Chantrey, Westmacott, and others will be found—the whole of the sculpture will be disposed artistically about the picture-galleries and other parts of the building.

The organisation of juries is going on very rapidly in the several departments, and the number will, we believe, be about eighty. The machinery department, though still backward, promises well for the English exhibitors, and one little colliery locomotive—quite a work of art in its way—has been found very useful on the railroad in the western annex. A notice has been sent to the exhibitors in this department by the commissioners fixing the 20th of April as the last day for putting together machinery, and the dates between the 22nd and the 25th of April for the trial of machinery in motion.

IRELAND.

REVENUE IN IRELAND.—The customs duties collected in Ireland in 1861 amounted to £2,295,000 net, an increase of nearly £50,000 over the previous year; the amount collected at Dublin exceeded £1,000,000; at Belfast, £391,000; at Cork, £296,000. The excise collection reached £2,991,000 net, an increase of £160,000 over the year before. The stamp duties fell off from £537,000 in 1860 to £515,000 in 1861. The property and income tax produced £733,485—about a thirtieth part of the produce of the tax for the entire United Kingdom, of the population of which Ireland contains a fifth. The total revenue of Ireland last year, including £320,000 repayment of money advanced for public works, amounted to £6,883,557—about £11,000 less than in 1860. The receipts from the Crown lands in Ireland are not here included, but are brought into the general account of the Commissioners of Woods, &c.

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES, IRELAND.—The system of "mixed education" is making considerable progress in Ireland, notwithstanding the obstacles thrown in its way by the Roman Catholic priesthood. According to the just-published report of Sir Robert Kane, President of Queen's College, Cork, the total number of students for the academic year 1860-1 had increased over the preceding period from 171 to 203. Out of this number very nearly one-half attended the faculty of medicine, and the rest divided their studies between law, the arts, engineering, and agriculture. The average age of the students at entrance was seventeen. The statement of the president that "the very Rev. Mr. O'Connor, P.P., the Roman Catholic Dean of Residences, has been prevented by the regulations of the Synod of Thurles from making any official report" is rather significant. Nevertheless, it is added that "Roman Catholic students have uniformly been of equally excellent conduct with their fellow-students of other religious denominations." Sir Robert Kane further states that "the Roman Catholic middle classes continue to avail themselves of the means of education provided for them in the Queen's Colleges."

SCOTLAND.

A TOSS FOR PRECEDENCE.—In a case tried a few days ago in the Sheriff's Court of Glasgow, Sir A. Alison, who presided, hit upon a novel mode of determining a knotty point of precedence which threatened to be troublesome. A competition arose between Mr. Galbraith and Mr. Gordon Smith as to who should have precedence in examining the bankrupt, and the Sheriff was appealed to on the subject. Mr. Galbraith, after stating the nature of the question, was proceeding to state his claim. The Sheriff: "I think you had better lose up a shilling for it. Many questions of more importance have been determined by worse means." Mr. Galbraith: "I think I am entitled to proceed." Mr. Smith: "I submit that I—." The Sheriff: "Ah! I see how it is; we had better just toss for it. I'll throw up this shilling." Heads for you, Mr. Galbraith; tails for you, Mr. Smith. Heads it is." Mr. Galbraith thereupon claimed the right to proceed. Mr. Smith acquiesced, at the same time muttering it should have been the best of five.

THE PROVINCES.

PIT-SHAFT ACCIDENT.—On Saturday last an accident happened in the pit-shaft of Seaham Colliery, in the county of Durham, of precisely the same character as that which occurred in Hartley Pit, and the loss of life might have been double that of Hartley had there not been a door of escape. About half-past eleven in the forenoon, while between 300 and 400 men and lads were employed down in the mine, one of the cages, the one coming up the shaft, got out of the "skets" or guides which serve to keep it in position while going upward or downward, and the consequence was that it came into violent collision with the cage that was descending at the same moment. The shock of the collision drove the loosened cage forcibly against the brattice-work which divides the shaft (which is a single one), and about ten fathoms of it was carried away. Part of the timber went down the shaft, and the remainder fell crosswise, blocking up the shaft pretty much in the same manner as at Hartley, but not to the like extent. Unlike Hartley, however, a way of escape had been provided for the miners in case of an accident of this character. A connecting road had been made into Seaton Colliery—the two collieries belonging to the Marquisess of Londonderry—and in a very short time every soul was in safety at bank. The Seaham Pit shaft is walled throughout with smoothly-finished masonry, except where it passes through a stratum of solid rock, and therefore no heavy stone or rubbish fell to complete the choking up of the shaft, as at Hartley. The labour of ridding it out has therefore been comparatively light, and the pit is expected to get to work in a day or two. Seaham Colliery is between 250 and 300 fathoms deep.

THE LADY GODIVA PROCESSION AT COVENTRY.—A project is on foot for reviving this year the Godiva procession at the fair of Coventry, which is exciting a good deal of discussion in the locality. Several of the clergy and laity of the city of Coventry have held a meeting and adopted the following memorial to the Mayor:—"Without offering any opinion as to the propriety of reviving the Lady Godiva procession in future years, or as to the possibility of preventing the scandalous exhibitions of previous occasions, the undersigned express their deliberate judgment that, under the circumstances of trade in the city, the frequent appeals which have been made to the charity of the benevolent in all parts of the kingdom, and the distress still existing among the working population, a procession this year would be ill-timed and wholly unlikely to confer any real benefit on the city." The committee formed for carrying out the proposed procession have put forth an announcement in which they state their intentions as to the manner in which the procession will be carried out, so far as concerns the representation of the principal personate. Referring to the objection urged against raising funds for a pageant so soon after the appeal made to the country to alleviate the existing distress, the committee, expressing their opinion that if an outlay of £200 or £300 will furnish such an attraction as will cause 5000 persons to visit Coventry the sum expended by the visitors will handsomely repay for such outlay. The committee state that their object in appealing for pecuniary support is to assist the city and maintain an ancient custom; and they pledge themselves, in conclusion, that the costume of Countess Godiva shall be such as shall not offend the most fastidious taste.

A LIVERPOOL PEARODY.—Some twenty years ago no Liverpool merchant was better known on 'Change than Mr. Charles Shields; no one was more universally respected. In the terrible crisis of 1825, he, like many others, found his resources, ample as they were, unavailing at the moment; but he quickly surmounted the difficulty, and discharged promptly all his obligations. Soon after 1840 he retired from business, and went to reside in Kingstown, near Dublin, where he died. He was, long after his retirement, in constant communication with Mr. J. Campbell, who was to have been his executor, about the disposal of his property, observing frequently that it gave him more trouble what to do with it than it did in getting it. He was alone in the world; he had no relative living, near or remote, and of course he contemplated being bountiful to some public charity. Mr. Campbell having ceased to be his adviser, nothing was known of his purposes until after his death. Then it was found that he had distributed £120,000, all his fortune, among charitable institutions, chiefly almshouses, in the following places—viz., Kilgallow (in the county of Down, his native place), the city of Dublin, and the towns of Down, Armagh, and Tyrone.

THE ATTACK ON FORT DONNELSON.

We have already published some particulars, chiefly derived from Northern sources, of the attack on and surrender of Fort Donnellson, which was such a serious blow to the Confederates. We now subjoin the official account of the affair furnished to the Government of President Davis by General Pillow, one of the senior officers in command of the Southern troops at Fort Donnellson. On the evening of the 14th of February the Confederates learned that their enemies had been reinforced, that the odds brought against them were overwhelming—that, in fact, they were surrounded; and General Pillow thus describes the measures he and his co-commanders then took:—

At a council of the General Officers, called by General Floyd, it was unanimously determined to give the enemy battle next day at daylight, so as to cut open a route for exit for our troops to the interior of the country, and thus save our army. The plan of attack agreed upon and directed by General Floyd to be executed was, that with the main body of the forces of our left wing I should attack the right wing of the enemy, occupying and resting upon the heights reaching to the bank of the river, accompanied by Colonel Forrest's brigade of cavalry; that Brigadier-General Buckner, with the forces under his command, and defending the right of our line, should strike the enemy's encampment and forces on the Winn's Ferry road; that the forces under Colonel Heiman should hold his position, and that each command should leave in the trenches troops to hold them. In this order of battle it was easy to be seen, if my attack was successful, and the enemy routed, that his retreat would be along his line of investment towards Winn's Ferry road, and thence towards his reserve at the gun-boats below. In other words, my success would roll the enemy's force in retreat over upon General Buckner, when, by his attack in front and rear, we could cut up the enemy and put him completely to rout.

General Pillow advanced out of the works in pursuance of this plan, and, after a good deal of hard fighting, he says he drove the enemy back as far as the centre. As General Buckner did not attack, he (General Pillow) went back, and found that the advance of General Buckner's force had been checked by a battery on the Winn-road. This battery, therefore, was attacked and driven back, when, after a good deal more fighting, the troops were drawn off for the day.

The operations of the day had forced the entire command of the enemy around to our right wing, and in front of General Buckner's position in the trenches, and when his command reached his position he found the enemy rapidly advancing to take possession of this portion of the work. He had a stubborn conflict, lasting one hour and a half, to regain it, and the enemy actually got possession of the extreme right of his position, and held it so firmly that he could not dislodge him. The position thus gained by the enemy was a most commanding one, being immediately in the rear of our river battery and fieldwork for its protection. From it he could readily turn the entrenched work occupied by General Buckner, and attack him in reverse or advance under cover of an intervening ridge directly upon our battery and fieldwork. While he held this position it was manifest we could not hold the main work or battery. Such was the condition of the armies at nightfall after nine hours of conflict on the 15th of February, in which our loss was severe, and leaving not less than 5000 of the enemy dead and wounded on the field. We left upon the field nearly all his wounded because we could not remove them. We left his dead unburied because we could not bury them. Such conflict and courage has, perhaps, never before occurred upon this continent. We took about three hundred prisoners and a large number of arms. We had fought this battle to open the way for our army and relieve us from an investment, which would necessarily reduce us and the position by famine. We had occupied the whole day to accomplish our object, and before we could prepare to leave, after taking in the wounded and the dead, the enemy had thrown around us again in the night an immense force of fresh troops, and re-occupied his original position in the line of investment, thus again cutting off our retreat. We had only about 12,000 troops, all told. A large proportion of these we had lost in the three battles. The command had been in the trenches night and day for five days, exposed to the snow, sleet, mud, and ice water, without shelter and without adequate covering, and without sleep. In this condition the general officer held a consultation to determine what he should do. General Buckner gave it as his decided opinion that he could not hold his position one half-hour against an assault of the enemy, and said the enemy would attack him next morning at daylight. The proposition was then made by several officers to again fight through the enemy's line and cut our way out. General Buckner said his command was so worn out and cut to pieces and demoralised that he could not make another fight; that it would cost the command three-quarters of its numbers to cut its way through, and it was wrong to sacrifice three-quarters of a command to save one quarter; that no officer had a right to cause such a sacrifice. General Floyd and Major Glimmer I understood to concur in this opinion. I then expressed the opinion that we could hold out another day, and in that time we could get steam-boats and set the command over the river, and probably save a large portion of it. To this General Buckner replied that the enemy would certainly attack him at daylight, and that he could not hold his position half an hour. The alternative of the propositions was a surrender of their position and command. General Floyd said that he would neither surrender the command, nor would he surrender himself a prisoner. I had taken the same position. General Buckner said he was satisfied nothing else could be done, and that, therefore, he would surrender the place in command. General Floyd said that he would turn over the command to him if he could be allowed to withdraw his command. To this General Buckner assented. Thereupon General Floyd turned the command over to me, I passing it instantly to General Buckner, saying I would neither surrender the command nor myself a prisoner. I directed Colonel Forrest to cut his way out. Under these circumstances General Buckner accepted the command, and sent a flag of truce to the enemy for an armistice of six hours, to negotiate for terms of capitulation. Before this flag and communication were delivered I retired from the garrison.

President Davis sent a message on the 10th ult. to the Confederate Congress stating that he had suspended Generals Floyd and Pillow from their commands until they could give more satisfactory accounts of their action at Fort Donnellson. The President was dissatisfied with their reports. The message states that neither of them say that reinforcements were asked for; nor do they show that their position could not have been evacuated, and a whole army saved as well as a part of it. It is also not shown by what authority two senior generals abandoned their responsibility by transferring the command to a junior officer.

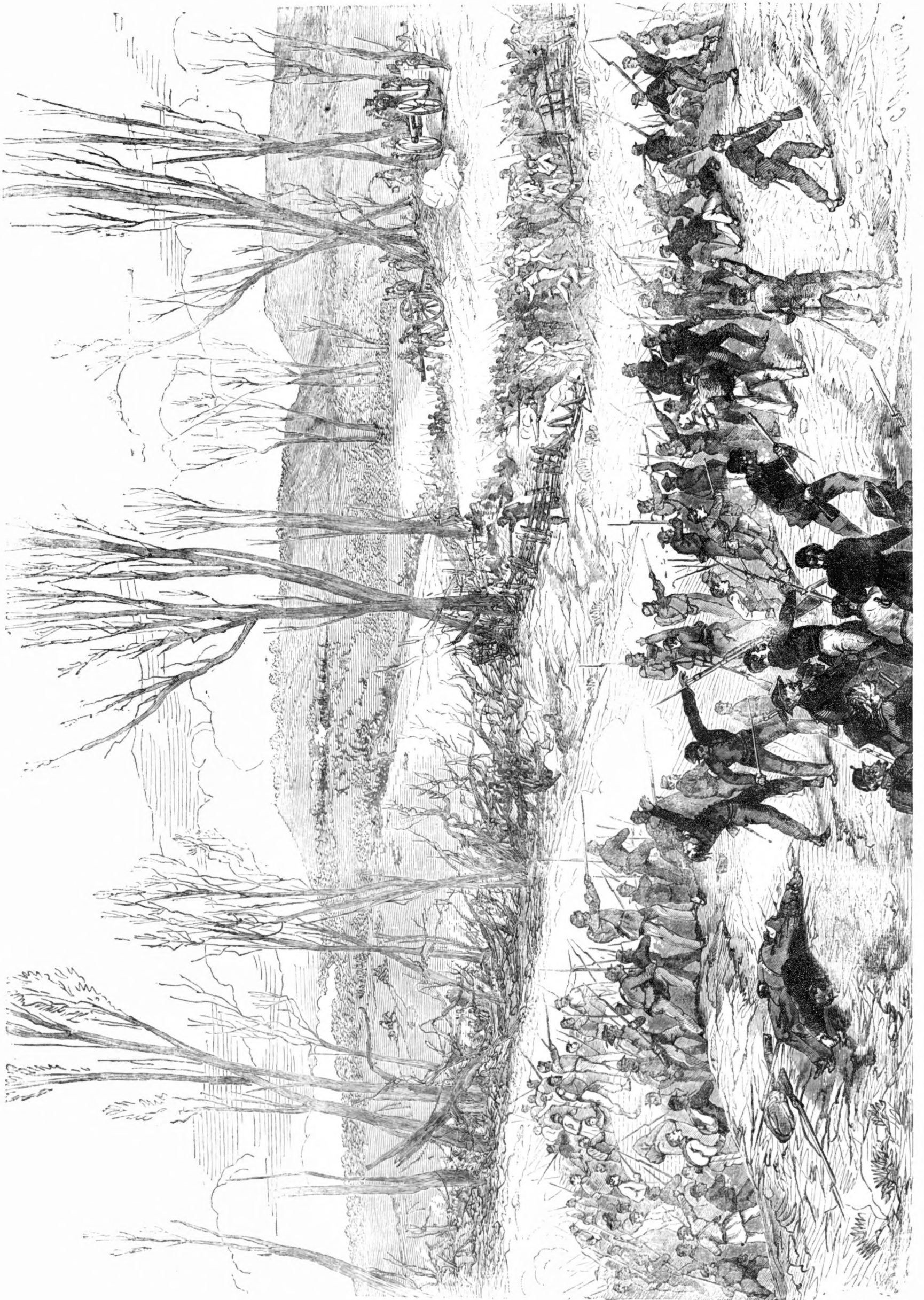
One of our Illustrations shows the attack on the entrenched camp; the other is a view of the interior of the Taylor battery, where much of the fighting took place.

THE PAYMASTER OF A REGIMENT quartered in Ireland has absconded, being a defaulter to the amount of £1600 and upwards.

THE STEAM-SHIP MARS, bound from Waterford to Bristol, sunk off Crow Rocks, near Milford Haven, on Wednesday morning. Fifty lives are said to be lost, but the exact number is uncertain.

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, 29, Great George-street, Westminster, will be open to the public during the season on Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10 to 5 o'clock.

THE ALBERT MEMORIAL FUND.—The subscriptions to the Albert national memorial now amount to upwards of £43,000. A movement has been made in the direction of collecting the subscriptions of the middle and working classes. One parish in Buckinghamshire has sent £20, collected chiefly in shillings, sixpences, and pence. "Two sisters" propose a five-shilling fund, to be raised by the women of England, and send crowns from themselves to make a beginning. In these and in similar ways we have no doubt that the mine of generosity so rich among our middle classes will be extensively and successfully worked.



ATTACK BY FEDERAL TROOPS ON THE ENTRENCHED CAMP OUTSIDE FORT DONNELSON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. MASWELL.)



INTERIOR OF THE TAYLOR BATTERY DURING THE ATTACK ON FORT DONNELSON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. NEWELL.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 180.

THE BATTLE OF THE CODES.

THE battle which had raged for two nights on the "Revised Code" was on Friday night unexpectedly stopped. At half-past four the belligerents were assembled in great force on both sides. Indeed, the House was crowded. Before five Mr. Speaker left the chair. Mr. Massey took his seat at the table, and we expected a protracted and earnest fight over the first of Mr. Walpole's resolutions; but suddenly a flag of truce was hoisted by Mr. Lowe—a compromise was offered—a truce was granted—the war was for a time at an end; and the House, instead of sitting on till midnight, was up and away, at six o'clock. Adjourned at six o'clock on Friday night! The like of this has seldom been seen in modern times, for, as a rule, we are always late on Friday nights. The consideration of this vexed question was postponed until Monday next, and has since been deferred till after Easter. Meanwhile, Mr. Lowe is to embody certain changes proposed by his opponents in a re-revised code. He will have some trouble to remodel his revolutionary scheme so as to make it pleasant to all parties; but he is an exceedingly able man, and if the thing can be done, he will do it.

STRANGE PHASE OF "INNER LIFE."

And now, while he is busy with his pen and his scissors, interpolating here and clipping out there, it will be worth while to look a little closely at this extraordinary episode which we have had in our Parliamentary proceedings; for, if we mistake not, here is a phase of House of Commons "inner life" at once new, at least in degree, very strange in its aspects, and somewhat threatening to the power and independence of our Third Estate. Parliamentary grants in aid of public education began in 1839. The sum voted in that year was £39,000. The sum voted in 1861 was £803,794. Thus rapidly have these grants increased. And now let us mark how this vast amount is distributed. In 1860, the Church of England received £437,643; the Dissenters, through the British and Foreign School Society, £65,361; the Wesleyans, £37,677; the Roman Catholics, £29,739. From 1839 to 1860, inclusive, the Church of England received £3,070,432; the Dissenters, £436,657; the Wesleyans, £232,222; the Roman Catholics, £166,332. The distribution of these sums is intrusted to "the Committee of Privy Council on Education," whose president is Lord Granville, whose vice-president is Mr. Robert Lowe, and the establishment of this Committee in London, including the Inspectors of Schools, costs the country about £65,000 a year. The money is distributed under a code of rules, regulations, and restrictions. To explain all these rules, regulations, and restrictions would require a thick volume. Suffice it to say that, generally, the money is granted in aid of voluntary contributions for building schoolrooms and paying teachers, and for educating the latter in training-schools, &c., and that the cash which is paid in aid of the salaries of teachers is apportioned according to the number of children which attend the schools. Now, it has been proved to the satisfaction of almost every dispassionate observer that this system is not a healthy one. It is, in short, a system which, whilst it secures the attendance does not secure the education of the children; and the object of Mr. Lowe's famous revised code, about which we have had such hubbub and agitation, was to alter this, and to secure not merely the attendance, but that the children attending should be well taught. The manner in which he attempted to obtain this object we shall not discuss; but that this was what he aimed at cannot be doubted. But whence arose the fierce opposition which the Government plan met with from all quarters? Doubtless our simple readers will be ready to reply, "Why, no doubt, the members opposing made themselves masters of the subject—studied the old code, read diligently the revised code, and, having considered it in all its bearings and discovered that it was unjust and that it would fail in attaining the object proposed, resolutely opposed its introduction." Well, in many cases it was so, no doubt; but we, who know the House better than most of our readers, venture to assert that a vast number of the members have not mastered the subject—know no more, indeed, of "the code," "the revised code," "the Walpoleonic code," than they do of "the Napoleonic code." Whence, then, we ask again, the fierce opposition? Well, if the truth must be told, and told it ought to be, for great results may come therefrom, the opposition did not grow out of the knowledge of the members, but was stirred up by a power external to the House, and how this was achieved will be easily seen if our readers will take the trouble to read the statistics following:—

In the year 1860 the total number of schools visited by the inspectors was 10,013, the total number of certificated teachers 7711, the total number of pupil-teachers 15,535, and if we add to these the vast number of clerical and laical trustees of all denominations of the 10,403 schools, the still greater number of patrons and subscribers who by their voluntary contributions support the schools, and all the fathers, and relations, and friends of the teachers, we shall find that there is an array of persons interested in these State grants amounting to little short, probably, of a million of people. And now, having in a rough way totted up the numbers of the force, just for a moment let us look at its composition. Usually, then, the public moves in sections to influence the House of Commons, but here we note that all sections are united—Church, Dissent, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic are for once banded together in heterogeneous unity; and well did they work. The poor members have had no easy time of it, we may be sure, during the last few months: they have been plagued with deputations; their library tables have been snowed up with letters and pamphlets and petitions; their houses have been beset, they have been dogged in the streets and in the lobby until they were nearly at their wits' end. And what is such case could the poor members do, thus hounded and threatened and goaded? Well, some goodly few—as we happen to know—resolutely turned a deaf ear to all these vigorous, pertinacious, threatening remonstrants, and plainly told their assailants that they could not and would not be bullied into a decision, but would calmly consider the question and decide it upon its merits. But of course the majority—especially of the members for boroughs, in which opposition of this sort always acts with most power—gave way at once. This, then, is the source of all this fierce opposition against Mr. Lowe and his scheme. An army of teachers, pupil-teachers, trustees, and subscribers has been raised up by these State grants. This army has mastered the House, and the House has mastered the Government; and this will occur again and again. Indeed, all battling against such a force, it is clear, must be futile. The recipients of these grants are masters of the situation, and will control the expenditure as they please. Not a pleasant outlook for Mr. Lowe and his colleagues this; but so it is.

THE COMBATANTS.

And now let us turn to the combatants in this notable fight. On the first night the opponents of the revised code had it nearly all their own way. No one but Sir George Grey and Mr. Leatham spoke in favour of Mr. Lowe's proposition. Mr. Walpole opened the ball of course; the right hon. gentleman was, as usual, grandiloquent, solemn, and prolix. Bernal Osborne lately said that Mr. Walpole is like "a high-stepping horse-hoof," and this description is as true as it is witty. Indeed, the wit lies in the truth. When Mr. Walpole sat down, Sir George Grey rose and delivered one of his rushing torrents of words. No two speakers can be more unlike than Sir George and Mr. Walpole; slow and deliberate is the latter, whilst from the former the words come tumbling out in such haste that it must be difficult for the speaker to keep unbroken the continuity of his sentences and the line of his argument; and it is still more difficult for the hearer to follow his reasoning. Sir George Grey has rather a harsh unpleasant voice, and the effect of this rapidity of utterance is a disagreeable, clattering sound, as if the words in their haste to get out of his mouth stumbled against his teeth. After Sir George came Mr. Banks Stanhope; but then dinner time had come,

and but few members stopped to listen to his wearysome, hour-long harangue. Lord Robert Cecil succeeded Mr. Stanhope, and of course spoke pointedly and well, as he always does, as far as mere language goes. But the noble Lord, in his anxiety to damage an opponent, misrepresents his arguments and exaggerates his statements. A clever man is Lord Robert Cecil, but he is an unfair fighter. Mr. E. Forster, who came after the member for Stamford, is the very opposite of his predecessor, and as a debater is in every way Lord Robert's superior. Mr. Forster came into Parliament no longer ago than last year; but he has already gained the ear of the House, and will keep it; and though he does not attempt anything like oratory, he is sufficiently eloquent—by which we mean that the thing which he intends to say he can say, and says pointedly and well; and his candour and fairness to his opponents, and his conscientious reasoning, are very remarkable. Mr. Forster is, in short, a very honest debater, and would not steal an advantage at the expense of a misstatement, an exaggeration, or a fallacy, for the world. Mr. Puller, of Hertfordshire, stood up for an hour or so; and Mr. Leatham closed the debate, but his speech we did not hear, and therefore of it will say nothing. And thus ended the first night. The debate lasted seven hours, and six men spoke; every speech, then, on the average, lasted one hour and ten minutes.

THE SECOND NIGHT.

When we entered the House on Thursday night the impassioned Whiteside was perorating and gesticulating in his most admired style. He was just then presenting an elaborate eulogy on the Scotch, which was remarkable, seeing that the right hon. gentleman is an Irishman of the purest breed. For we have noticed that generally the Irish and Scotch members have no sympathy whatever with one another. Irish and English you occasionally see chatting with one another, and English and Scotch; but Irish and Scotch never. We have so often described Mr. Whiteside's fireworks exhibitions that we need not say much of him here. Mr. Whiteside is always on the stilts, always goes in for the oratorical, and never by any chance is calm. The right hon. gentleman is an immense favourite with his party, and especially with the young members of it, who cheer him outrageously. There are, however, amongst the quiet old Tories some who do not highly appraise this sort of eloquence. For example, one solid old Conservative country gentleman, on being asked as he passed out of the House on Thursday "What he thought of Whiteside's speech?" growled out "Flummery!" and passed on.

MR. BERNAL OSBORNE.

Mr. Bernal Osborne must have the honour of a paragraph to himself on this occasion, for his speech was one of his very best flights. He was in the prime order—unusually jolly, witty, rollicking, and audacious—and for three-quarters of an hour kept the House in a roar of cheers and laughter. Some of his hits were specially good. His description, for example, of the religious teaching in our schools, which consisted, he said, in storing the memory with such facts as "the length of Noah's ark, the pedigree of Jehoshaphat, the dimensions of Solomon's temple, and the weight of Goliath's spear." And that other hit at the alliance of the religious sects against this scheme. "These sects hate each and everything else for the love of God; but they are united in this attempt upon the Exchequer; and when they do agree, their unanimity is wonderful." These are a sample only of the good things which sparkled throughout the whole, want of space forbids us to give more, but we should not do justice to Mr. Osborne if we were not to say that as well as wit there was solid argument in his speech.

MR. LOWE.

We will not weary our readers in describing the other speakers who intervened between Osborne and Lowe. On the whole, this interval was filled up with long, prolix, windy, tiresome harangues—was, indeed, a very valley of dry bones, Mr. Baines' speech being the only exception, for that was really able and argumentative, and full of interesting, and not a few startling, facts. It is better, however, to read than to hear Mr. Baines' speeches, for, though unquestionably an able man, he has not the art of speaking with effect. Mr. Lowe finished the evening, and a clever reply was never conceived. But let our readers mark the last word in this sentence, which we have purposely selected, for the reply was only well conceived, but not well delivered. The author of "Recreations of a Country Parson" has a chapter in that clever book on "the art of putting things," which it would be well for many of our senators if they would read, for most of them are lamentably deficient in this art: many of them can think, but they can't "put" their thoughts effectively before their hearers. And this is an especial fault of Mr. Lowe. That speech of his on Thursday night was so good as to the thoughts it contained that, even in spite of its dress, it produced occasionally great effect; but if the good things in it—the wit, the sarcasm, the solid arguments—had been "put" well, the speech would have been crushing. It is true that Mr. Lowe has not many of the external advantages of an orator, but it is no; that which makes his speeches ineffective, it is the want of compactness, force, point, in his sentences. In short, he has not the "art of putting things."

A SCENE NEAR THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—On Thursday morning, as early as eight o'clock, large numbers of persons had congregated in St. Stephen's Hall and places adjacent, for the purpose of securing seats in the Strangers' Gallery, to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer's financial statement in the House of Commons that evening. Admission to the gallery at four o'clock is secured by persons in the order of their arrival, the Speaker's Gallery being appropriated to those who, through a member, can obtain an order from Lord Charles Russell, the Sergeant-at-Arms. One gentleman, who had a ticket for the Strangers' Gallery, took up his position at half-past seven o'clock in the morning in the waiting-room at the foot of the gallery stairs. He was followed by others, and by eight o'clock dozen persons were present. The fresh arrivals now began to be rapid, the waiting-room was filled, and people began to take their places on the seats which run along the north side of St. Stephen's Hall. When these were filled the police had to keep the new comers in a regular order as they could. At twelve o'clock there were about three hundred persons present, while the gallery is not capable of accommodating more than eighty or a hundred.

DEPARTURE OF THE CROWN PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA.—Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Prussia took leave of her Majesty on Monday morning, and left the castle at ten minutes before twelve o'clock for Gravesend, where the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert was waiting to convey her Royal Highness to Antwerp. Prince Alfred, attended by Major Cowell, accompanied the Princess to Gravesend. Her Royal Highness and suite arrived at Gravesend shortly before two o'clock on Monday afternoon by special train on the North Kent Railway, and shortly afterwards embarked on board her Majesty's steam-yacht Victoria and Albert, which immediately left for the Continent.

THE MALT DUTIES.—A deputation of maltsters waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Tuesday, at his official residence in Downing-street, to request an extension of the time allowed for payment of the malt duties. The deputation was introduced by Sir Minto Farquhar, Mr. Du Cane, &c. The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that their application was too late for the present Session. He was willing to give it full consideration for the future, and with that view he requested that the deputation would send their case to him in writing; but he did not hold out much hope of its being granted, as he said it would involve an increase to the burdens of the country.

SUNDAY TRADING.—A deputation—consisting of the Duke of Marlborough, the Bishop of London, and several other members of both Houses of Parliament, as well as other gentlemen and clergymen representing various societies formed to promote the better observance of Sunday—waited on Sir George Grey to consult him as to the course Government might take in case a bill, which is contemplated, were introduced into Parliament whose provisions would not alter the existing laws in relation to Sunday trading, but only increase the penalties already provided, and put its execution into the hands of the police. Sir George Grey stated in reply that the Government had no intention of introducing such a bill themselves, and he held out little encouragement to others doing so, as he observed that the attempts during the last twenty years to put down Sunday trading by law had, in his opinion, done more harm than good.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TRADE OUTRAGES.

VISCOUNT DUNGANNON called attention to the case of three men convicted at York Assizes for an alleged trade outrage at Thorpe, near Rotherham. He stated that an alibi was so clearly proved that the Judge wished to stop the case, but the jury requested that it might proceed, and eventually found the men guilty. They were sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude, and he thought the case was one which justly merited the intervention of the Crown.

EARL GRANVILLE was understood to say that the Judge had represented to the Home Office that the case was incorrectly reported, and no petition had as yet been presented on behalf of the convicts.

LUNACY REGULATION BILL.

The Lunacy Regulation Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRIT.

A new writ was ordered to be issued for Preston, in the room of Mr. Cross, resigned.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH BELGIUM.

In reply to Mr. W. E. Forster, Mr. LAYARD said that the reason the negotiation with Belgium was suspended was that the Government of that country had stipulated that unless Great Britain was willing to capitalise the Scheldt duns they could not grant us a treaty of commerce. Her Majesty's Government felt bound to decline the proposal. At the same time, they were quite ready to take that question into their consideration whenever the treaty should be granted. They could scarcely believe that the Belgian Government would do so unfriendly an act as to refuse this country that which they had granted to France, Prussia, and the other Continental Powers.

THE EDUCATION CODE.

In Committee of the whole House on education, Mr. LOWE said that the Government had come to the conclusion to do all in their power to bring the controversy on the revised code to a satisfactory termination, and they would consent to a relaxation of the rule that the grants should rest on examination, and would assent that a portion of the grants should make as with reference to grouping of children by age for the purpose of examination, which they proposed to give up; and the Government would endeavour to make some other arrangement. A third concession which would be made was that the Government would reconsider the manner in which the pupil teachers now engaged should be provided for; and while providing for the payment of those in existence, any surplus of the grant which might remain would be paid to the managers. It was also intended to concede, if the code of education should be revised, or any material alteration made in it, that in January of each year it shall be printed in such a form as to show separately all articles cancelled or modified and all new articles; and that, in the event of such material alteration or revision, it shall not be lawful to take any action therein until the same shall have been submitted to Parliament and laid on the table of both Houses for at least one calendar month.

Mr. WALPOLE expressed his sense of the frank manner in which these concessions had been made, and said he should endeavour to meet them in the same spirit. He believed that, although these alterations were made, they would be consistent with the objects which the Government had in view. He hoped that no undue haste would be shown in proceeding with the matter.

Mr. DISRAELI said the Government had acted with great wisdom and propriety in deferring to the unmistakable opinion expressed by both sides of the House. The concessions which they had made would, he was sure, be as satisfactory to the country as they were honourable to the Government. The right hon. gentleman also joined in the request that, as the measure was, so to speak, new, ample time would be afforded for its consideration.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Marine Mutiny Bill and the Whipping (No. 2) Bill were read a third time and passed.

MONDAY, MARCH 31.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Mutiny Bill passed through Committee. The Charitable Uses Act (1861) Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Australian Colonies Government Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE gave notice that after Easter he intended to move for a Select Committee on the subject of the navigation of the River Shannon.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PERSECUTION OF PROTESTANTS IN SPAIN.

LORD PALMERSTON, in reply to a question from Mr. Blake, said that the Government had no official correspondence on the subject of certain alleged persecutions of Protestants in Spain, but observed that her Majesty's Minister at Madrid had been instructed to lose no favourable opportunity to express to the Spanish Government the deep and general interest which the British nation felt on the subject.

IRON-CLAD SHIPS OF WAR.

SIR F. SMITH called the attention of the Secretary of War to the reports of an engagement between the American iron-clad frigate Merrimac, and the iron gun-boat Monitor, having a shot-proof roof; and asked whether, in consequence of the results of that action, it would not be prudent to suspend the construction of some of the proposed forts at Spithead until the value of such iron-roofed gun-boats for the defence of our ports and roadsteads should have been fully considered. The hon. and gallant gentleman expressed his opinion that, after the result of the late memorable conflict between the above vessels, it would be imprudent to continue the construction of the fortresses at Spithead and other places. It might, he thought, be very well to fortify landing-places by fixed batteries; but he held that in future we must give up building either great iron ships like the Warrior, or land-defences, and construct small floating-batteries, built on the principle of the Monitor, with guns of heavy calibre.

MR. LAIRD observed that the Government of the United States were so satisfied with the result of the experiment in iron gun-boat building that they had determined upon abandoning all their coast fortresses and constructing a fleet of Monitors. Henceforward it would be the duty of this country to construct its entire navy of iron; and he believed that until we did so, and established graving docks on foreign stations, we should never be able to materially reduce the expenditure for our dockyards.

MR. GREGORY asked what was the use of such defences as those at Alderney when one iron-plated gun-boat could run over from Cherbourg and break up into lucifer matches the whole of the wooden vessels in the harbour?

SIR J. HAY admitted that he had been in favour of constructing the forts at Spithead, but that his opinion had lately undergone a change, and that he now thought it would be far more desirable to expend the money in the building of iron-plated gun-boats, fitted with Captain Cole's cupolas.

LORD A. TEMPER reminded the House that however formidable the Merrimac might be in smooth water, such vessels could not live in a heavy sea. He mentioned this to show that vessels of similar construction were valuable chiefly as coast defences.

SIR G. C. LEWIS referred to the report of the Defence Committee, which recommended a combination of fortresses and iron-cased ships, which was precisely what the Government were doing. It might be necessary to make a vast change in our naval defences, but he warned the House that the change could not be effected without a corresponding sacrifice of public money. The result of revolutionising the art of naval warfare, as recommended by Mr. Gregory, would be to call for a supplemental estimate of £10,000,000 or £15,000,000. He did not claim to be an authority upon the subject, but, as far as he could judge, the recent engagement between the Merrimac and Monitor did not by any means decide the superiority of any particular vessel of war.

MR. BRIGHT considered the statement of the right hon. Baronet by no means satisfactory, and contended that the recent engagement in the James River was at all events sufficiently significant to warrant the Government in suspending the expenditure upon fortifications. The experience of the last fortnight might save the country at least a million.

Captain JERVIS thought the whole question was, whether it was more advisable to have a fixed or a floating fortress of equal strength. As, in his opinion, an iron floating-battery could be made quite as strong as a land-battery, he was in favour of adopting the former.

MR. OSBORNE hoped the House would insist upon the Government suspending the building of land defences until it could be proved that they could hold their own against such marine monsters as a naval science was now producing.

SIR J. PAKINGTON was not in favour of suddenly changing our whole system of naval warfare upon reports which might reach us from the other side of the Atlantic; but he felt bound to admit that the rencontre in the James River went to show that the theory of Captain Cole was correct. He regretted to gather from what had fallen from Sir G. C. Lewis that the Government intended to proceed with the forts at Spithead.

Lord C. FAIRBANKS assured the House that the Government had not neglected the subject.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Coningham and Mr. Bentinck, after which the subject dropped.

THE OTTOMAN LOAN.

Mr. HENRIARD called attention to what the hon. gentleman termed "the participation of her Majesty's Government in the proposals for an Ottoman loan," and protested against what he considered to be a most unusual course—namely, the appointment of a British Commissioner to superintend the appropriation of a new loan.

Lord PALMERSTON said that the course which Earl Russell had taken in reference to the late loan to Turkey had been simply regulated by wise and prudent considerations. The Government of the Sultan being anxious to place the national finances upon a sound footing by the conversion of the paper currency and a portion of the floating debt, were now raising a loan in this country, and had requested her Majesty's Government to appoint commissioners to satisfy themselves as to its due appropriation to the purposes intended. This was all that her Majesty's Government had done; but in according to the request of the Sultan they were animated by a desire to see Turkey independent and prosperous, because they believed that her independence was essential to the peace of Europe. The Ottoman Empire had been likened to a "sick man," but he fancied there were other Powers who boasted of sound constitutions and excellent health to whom the term would apply with far greater truth. He entertained a confident hope that, by prudent economy and judicious reforms, the prosperity and independence of Turkey would soon be secured.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates, and several votes were agreed to.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved a resolution by which an annuity now paid to the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company was to be converted into a charge on the Consolidated Fund, which, after a brief discussion, was agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Bill was read a second time. The Writs of Habeas Corpus into her Majesty's Possessions Abroad Bill was read a second time.

The Copyright of Works of Art Bill was read a third time and passed.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Bleachfields Women and Children Employment Bill and the Marine Mutiny Bill were read a second time. The Mutiny Bill was read a third time and passed; and the Australian Colonies Government Act Amendment Bill passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MANUFACTURE OF ARMSTRONG GUNS.

Sir G. C. LEWIS, in reply to a question from Mr. Berkeley, stated that the War Office had not entered into any contract with Sir W. Armstrong for the manufacture of his guns, but that they had with the Elswick Iron Company, under which it was provided that, if the War Office ceased to employ the company, they were to compensate them for the loss of their plant, which was of the value of £85,000.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. HENNESSY moved a resolution in favour of throwing open junior clerkships in the Civil Service by a system of competitive examination to all subjects of the Queen fulfilling certain conditions as to age, health, and character; and that with this view it was desirable that the experiment first tried at the East India House in 1857 should be repeated from time to time in the other departments of the Civil Service.

Mr. B. COCHRANE proposed, as an amendment, "That many of the qualities constituting a good public officer—good principles, good habits, sound judgment, general intelligence, and energy—cannot be tested by any plan of public competition. The introduction, therefore, of such a system into all the departments of the public service would be very injurious to their efficiency."

The amendment was seconded by Mr. PEACOCKE.

Lord STANLEY expressed his general approval of the present system of competitive examination, and said that it was no more than a reasonable proposition to extend an experiment that had been found successful in one department of the public service to another.

Sir G. C. LEWIS stated his intention to meet the resolution by moving the previous question. He said that the Government had taken the most advanced step which the present state of things would permit. They had established with regard to those clerks whose duties were merely mechanical a simple standard of examination, while as to those from whom more intellectual activity was required they had instituted a competitive examination founded upon a limited competition, and they were not prepared either to go back to the system of simple nomination or to adopt the system of indiscriminate and open competition, in which the head of the office would be wholly irresponsible for the moral character and conduct of the candidate.

Mr. M. MILNES described the present system as purely mechanical. It was money and "crum," and the poor man was utterly excluded from competing with those who had the means of employing the "crammers."

After some observation from Mr. Bentinck and Mr. Morrison, Sir J. FARRINGTON feared that, if the competitive system were extended as now proposed, considerable difficulty might be found in carrying on the examinations in such a manner as to avoid the perpetration of great injustice.

Some further discussion ensued, in which Mr. Clifford, Mr. Whiteside, Mr. Newdegate, Sir F. Smith, and other hon. members took part, when the amendment of Mr. Cochrane was put and negatived.

The House then divided on Sir G. C. Lewis's amendment (the previous question), which was carried by 87 to 66. The motion was therefore lost.

THE FIRE INSURANCE DUTY.

Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN moved for leave to bring in a bill to reduce the duty on fire insurance.

After a debate in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer and several other hon. members took part,

Lord PALMERSTON combated the argument that this tax had about it any special grievance or injustice beyond any other; for every tax was liable to some objection or other. He objected to the time at which the proposition to repeal a tax had been brought forward—on the eve of the financial statement for the year—both on constitutional grounds and on the ground of inconvenience.

On a division the motion was carried by 127 to 116. The Government was therefore defeated, and leave given to bring in the bill.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The business before the House was not of much public interest. The Marriages (Ireland) Bill, the Chancery Regulation Bill, and the Law of Property Amendment Bill, were each, after some discussion, advanced a stage.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

IRON-PLATED SHIPS.

Lord HARDWICK called the attention of the Government to the present position of the British Navy, and inquired what number of wooden ships and iron ships we had at present.

The Duke of SOMERSET, in reply, stated that in the course of the present year we should have ten armour-plated vessels of various kinds afloat and effective, and that in the course of the next year there would be five or six more.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Lord PALMERSTON stated that the House would adjourn for the holidays on Friday, the 11th, or Monday, the 14th, and meet again on Monday, the 22nd.

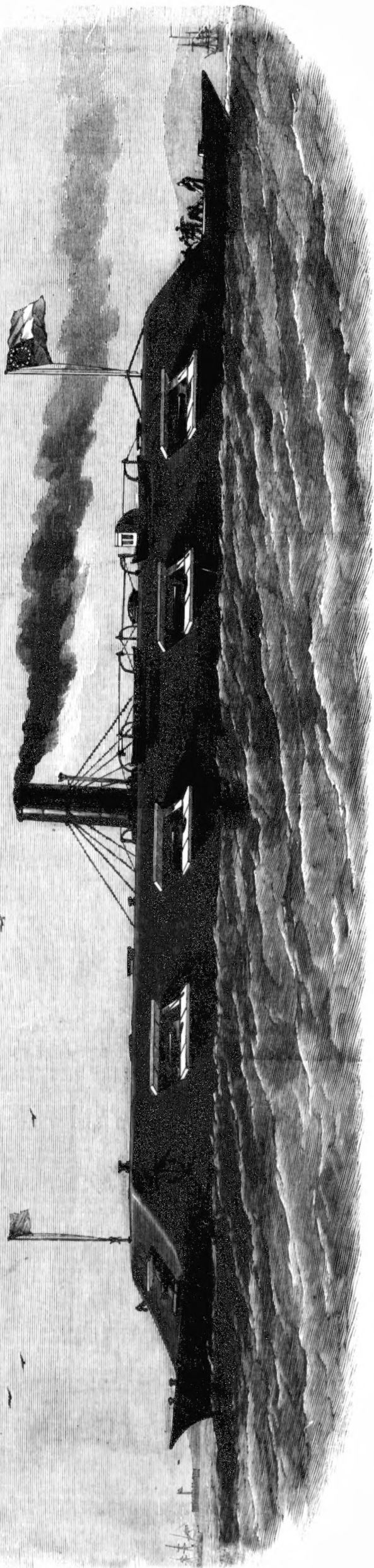
THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then rose, amid the cheers of the House, to make his annual financial statement in Committee of Ways and Means. Beginning with a retrospect of the revenue and expenditure of last year, he might state that the expenditure was estimated in April, 1861, at £69,875,000; but over and above that expenditure there required to be issued from the Exchequer, in respect of what were termed excesses upon the expenditure of previous years, sums amounting to £28,000. The actual expenditure, he was sorry to say, had been considerably more than the estimate, owing to the supplemental grants which had been made for various purposes. A portion of those grants was made in the Session of 1861 to the extent of £26,000. A larger portion was made in the Session of 1862, in connection with the dispatch of troops to British North America and on account of China—the amount being £73,000. These constituted an addition to the original estimated expenditure of the year of £1,199,000, and made the total estimated expenditure £71,074,000. The actual expenditure was £70,838,000, or less by £236,000, than the estimated expenditure. The expenditure of 1859-60, as represented in the Exchequer account, was £69,623,000; but there were excesses which increased it to £69,748,000. The expenditure of 1861-2 showed, consequently, an excess of £1,090,000; but the expenditure of 1861-2 was £72,604,000, and, as that of 1861-2 was £70,838,000, there had, conse-

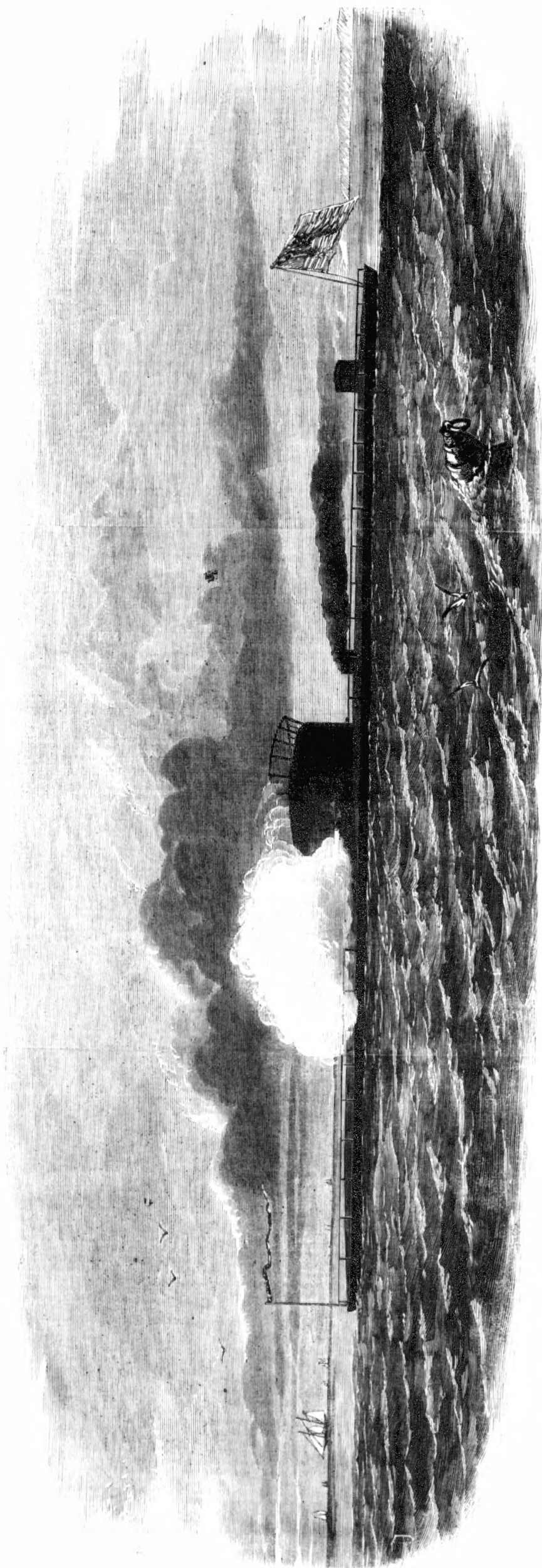
quently, been a decrease of £1,666,000. The revenue of 1861-2 was £69,674,000, showing a deficit, as compared with the expenditure, of £161,200; but, as the supplemental charges amounted to £1,499,000, it followed that upon the original financial arrangement there would have been a small surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to £335,000. The revenue of 1860-1 was £70,283,000; in 1861-2 it was £69,674,000, showing a decrease of £609,000; but, taking into consideration two days' uncollected revenue on a Sunday and on Good Friday in the former year, the decrease would have been £809,000. But the Government had parted with £1 of income tax for three quarters of a year, amounting to £50,000, and six months' paper duty, amounting to £65,000, and they did not enjoy in 1861-2 the malt credit, which had been taken up in 1860-1, and which added to the resources of the Exchequer in that year a sum of £1,122,000. Deducting these items from the apparent decrease in the revenue, the figures would show that there had been an improvement in the remaining sources of revenue to no less an extent than £1,828,000. These circumstances were the more remarkable because the financial crisis of last year had proved even more serious than had been anticipated. Mr. Gladstone then reviewed the influence which the American crisis had had upon the resources of the country, and showed that the influence of the war in that country upon our trade and revenue had been much greater than had been expected. It was, he said, a striking indication of the power and resources of the country, the industry and energy of the people, and the results of the legislation of the last twenty years, that, having in such a time parted with £2,637,000 of revenue, £1,559,000 had returned through other sources. It must not, however, be supposed that the revenue had actually improved, which might be imagined from the abstract of the last quarter published in the papers of Tuesday. On the contrary, it had been affected in a sensible though not an alarming manner by recent events; and the reason why the returns just published showed an excess on the corresponding quarter of last year was because there had been a large collection of income tax towards the close of the quarter, and a receipt of money on account of the Chinese indemnity. The revenue of the year had fallen below the estimates by £699,000; on the other hand, the receipts from Customs duties exceeded the estimates by £104,000, the stamps by £130,000, the taxes by £10,000, the income tax by £15,000; and the miscellaneous estimates, exclusive of the Chinese indemnity, by £1,000. The estimated receipts from Crown lands had fallen by £500,000, and from the Post Office by £10,000.—both insignificant sums—the balance, on the whole, being decidedly in the national favour as compared with the estimates. The Exchequer had fallen short by £456,000; but there had been a considerable gain on the estimate of revenue from malt, in consequence of the favourable barley harvest. On the other hand, there had been a considerable falling off in the estimate from spirits, and a loss upon the hop duty of about £100,000, or more, which was referable to the casualties of the season. There had been a considerable loss upon the article of paper, in consequence of a miscalculation of the amount of drawback, it having been calculated at about £150,000, whereas it turned out to be £350,000; and, adding these items together, the failure in the Exchequer was accounted for. The estimate of the Chinese indemnity laid before the Commons last year was £750,000; in all we were to receive £2,000,000, and it was estimated that it would be paid in four or five years. Owing to some accident, they had not yet received the precise amount of the payments up to late than September last. The whole receipt up to that period was £478,000; but they had, on representation made to them, paid the merchants half their substantiated claim, amounting to about £193,000, so that the whole of the available receipts up to April, 1862, would be £434,000. They had, however, only taken credit for the sum received up to September, which would reduce it to £285,000; and a further reduction, owing to the difference in the rate of exchange, would bring it down to £268,000, which was all that the Government had taken credit for. Instead of the amount being paid, as they had thought, within five years, it was now supposed that it would take from seven to eight years, unless some arrangements were made for anticipating the payments. The deficiency of the revenue of the year under those two heads more than made up for the results shown in the other branches of the revenue. The estimated expenditure for the year 1862-3 was as follows:—The charge upon the public debt would be £26,280,000, and in that charge was included, for the first time, a payment for the management of the debt. It appeared, therefore, as an augmentation; but, inasmuch as the Bank formerly made the charge themselves, there was in reality a saving of £50,000. The Consolidated Fund charge was £1,900,000, the Army stood at £13,300,000, and the Militia was to be very nearly the sum of £700,000; making together £16,000,000, showing an apparent augmentation of about £29,000, but which was more than compensated for by including a sum of £739,000 for the Indian effective. On the whole, there was really a decrease on the Army of £210,000. Instead of an increase of £29,000, the estimate for the Navy was £11,800,000, as against £12,296,000 last year, and it included a vote of £500,000 for building iron ships. The miscellaneous services would amount to £4,500,000, of which £3,300,000 had been already provided for Parliament, leaving £1,200,000 to be presented. The estimate last year was £7,593,000, but the present one included a sum of £37,000, which related to matters not previously within the control of the Treasury, nor the ordinary scope of the expenditure, under the head of Miscellaneous Estimates. There would be a vote for £218,000 on account of the loss on exchanges in China, £5,000 for tracing the British North American boundary, £9,000 paid abroad on account of British Kaffaria, and £25,000, on account of "various" islands. Altogether, they would have to ask for £37,000 to meet charges from various quarters. The estimated receipts from Customs in 1862-3 was £23,500,000; Excise, £18,340,000; from stamps, £8,625,000; and in that estimate was included, for the first time, repayment by the Bank of England of £60,000, on account of their composition in respect of stamp duty on the issues of notes; and assessed taxes, £3,180,000; income tax, £10,100,000; Post Office, £3,650,000; from Crown lands, £300,000; and the miscellaneous revenue was exceedingly large, because it was swelled from bringing into it items which had not been brought into that account before. There was a payment for Indian effective of £739,000; an amount of £130,000 for a profit of bank-note circulation; and a sum of £235,000 for the ordinary receipts; and £1,100,000, which might be taken to represent the ordinary receipts under the head of miscellaneous revenue, making a gross amount of £2,275,000. He then came to the Chinese indemnity, which he did not put down as a larger sum than £700,000, owing to a variety of circumstances. The total revenue of the country would therefore be about £70,190,000, against an estimated expenditure of £70,040,000. With respect to the imposition or remission of taxes, the right hon. gentleman said that four or five months ago he should have ventured to entertain the hope of being able to propose to the House fresh remissions of taxation. It would not be just to say that the coming year would be without the benefit of some remission of taxes, because the effect of some of the taxes repealed last year would not be felt till the present year. About three months ago the universal anticipation of the country was that we were about to be involved in a heavy expenditure and that new taxes must be imposed. The Government gave the subject the most careful consideration in their power. The first question for their consideration was the revenue, and that causes which exercised a depressing influence on the revenue, and that rested on the single word "America." That country, both with regard to the supply of cotton, had a depressing influence on the labour and capital of this country; but, looking simply at the trade with America, he was glad to say that it was improving, as would be seen from the following account of our exports during the last six months. In September the amount was £483,000; in October, £1,086,000; in November, £739,000; in December, £805,000; in January, £1,086,000; and in February, £1,253,000. So far, therefore, as our trade was concerned, there had been a considerable recovery. The right hon. gentleman then reviewed the effect of the treaty with France, and showed that in six months of the year there had been an increase of exports to that country of £3,895,000, or nearly 200 per cent. Deducting from the total amount the sum of £3,000,000, £9,000,000 received for corn, the real increase stood at £3,895,000. There had also been a considerable increase on the export of colonial and foreign produce. In 1859-60 the gross amount of British, foreign, and colonial produce for the six months was £4,572,000. In the same six months of 1861-2 the amount was £10,350,000, showing an increase of £5,778,000. This circumstance afforded a hope that the commercial relations between the two countries was something like an approach to what nature intended it to be, and something like what it was intended to be by that greatest of all our peace Ministers, Mr. Pitt, and as unlike as possible what the folly and prejudice of some other men would have produced. It had been his duty to consider the fate which any proposal for an increase of taxation would have met with. Even supposing there had been a surplus of a million or a million and a half, what prospect would there have been of retaining it? Forty-eight hours backward would demonstrate his meaning, for a majority of the House had then, without knowing whether there would be any surplus or not, sanctioned the repeal of a portion of an existing duty of more than £1,000,000. Her Majesty's Government, notwithstanding the inconvenience which had been caused by the insufficient cotton supply and the other difficulties which existed, had come to the conclusion that it was not their duty to ask the House to impose any additional taxes; but they reserved to themselves the right, in the event of any great emergency, of considering in what way it might be met. With respect to the remission on tax, it was quite plain, upon the figures which he had presented to the House, that no remission could take place. Many claims for reduction or repeal of particular taxes had been made; but to none of these did the Government feel that they could accede. He would, however, mention a few slight changes which he proposed to make. One was the reduction of the duty on playing-cards from 1s. to 3d. He proposed a change in the inventory duty of 8 and 10, which corresponded with the probate duty in England. He proposed to apply to foreign bonds and loans of all descriptions the moderate charge of one-eighth per cent, which was applicable to all loans raised in this country for

English purposes. It was desirable to provide a supplemental licence for permitting publicans to supply commodities to persons on occasions of fairs and other public gatherings. It would attain the object of bringing them under the cognizance of the police, and they would, for this purpose, be allowed to take out supplemental licences for periods not exceeding three days. Mr. Gladstone then reviewed the condition of the spirit trade, and showed that the falling off in revenue from that source had been the result, not of illicit distillation, but of diminished power of consumption; and argued that there was, therefore, no reason to alter our course in regard to that particular trade. The Chancellor of the Exchequer then went over the claims of some branches of revenue—such as the sugar duties, the malt duties, and some minor taxes—for which remissions had been claimed, and came to the conclusion that in no instance had a sufficient case been made out for alteration, but expressed his readiness to have the peculiar features and influences of several of these imports inquired into by a Committee of the House, or by a Royal Commission, if deemed more desirable. He then went on to say that he had now to propose changes, if not of importance at least of much interest, in the wine duties. According to the opinion of the Government and the experience of the Revenue Department, there was great fundamental difficulties in altering the scale of wine duties. The alcoholic test, on the whole, had been illustrated in a most remarkable degree. During the two years 1858-9 and 1859-60 the mean deliveries of the wines under 26 deg. of alcoholic strength was 6,552,000 gallons, and the duty £1,697,000. During the year 1861-2 it was 9,732,000 gallons, or an increase of 50 per cent; and the duty was £1,105,000. But the estimated loss resulting from this change was £890,000, whereas the real decrease was only £592,000. On the whole, this result was satisfactory; but in the autumn the Government had dispatched three officers to ascertain the natural strength of wines where the strongest wine was produced. From the result of this inquiry the Government proposed to reduce the four scales at present existing to two, to admit all classes of wines up to 26 deg. of alcoholic strength at the 1s. duty, and there to make the great dividing line. From 26 deg. up to 42 deg. to impose a duty of 1s. 6d. instead of 1s. 3d., as at present, and above 42 deg. to impose a duty of 3d. for every degree. The financial result of this proposition would be that there would be a loss of £20,749, upon wines up to 26 deg.; but the single penny added to wines between 26 deg. and 42 deg. would give a gain of £36,548,—making a net gain of £15,800. The change, he believed, would be one highly beneficial to the public, and eminently acceptable to an intelligent body of men engaged in the wine trade. Another subject with which he had to deal, under the head of changes which had either been proposed or were to be adopted, was the subject of the hop duties. Unfortunately, the Government had no power at the present moment to remit the hop duty or part with the sum which it produced. The surplus, taken at the outside, would not be more than £150,000; and they could not, therefore, part with a duty which, at its lowest rate, yielded £300,000 a year on the average. Even in the bad year just concluded it yielded £250,000, from Excise, and £110,000, from Customs. The question, however, arose if it was possible to substitute with equity to all parties some other form of impost by way of computation which would secure to the revenue the greater part of the money it now got, and at the same time both relieve the grower from the payment of the duty and entirely set free the foreign trade as well as the British trade in hops. They had before them but one option, either to commute the duty, or to retain it. It was either commutation or they must stand as they were. He had a proposal to make to the Committee, but in order to render it intelligible he must refer to another subject not immediately connected with the hop duties—viz., the anomalous state of the present scale of charges for brewers' licences. The brewers' licence as it now stood was ranged on an ascending scale, but that ascending scale was adjusted in a manner which made the slightest inspection would be seen to be eminently burdensome to the small tradesman and favourable beyond all bounds to the larger brewer. If a brewer brewed for sale less than twenty barrels he paid 10s. 6d. for his licence, which imposed a tax of 6d. per barrel. If he brewed between 20 and 100 barrels he paid 17. 11s. 6d., or 3d. per barrel. The brewer of 1000 barrels only paid two guineas, or 2s. per barrel; of 50,000 barrels, 78. 15s., or 1s. 6d. per barrel; and of 300,000 barrels only a quarter of a farthing per barrel. He proposed that there should be a readjustment of the scale of brewers' licences, on the principle of including in a charge in respect of the hop duty, from which they would be released. It was ascertained that the minimum duty now paid by the brewer in the price of his hops was 3s. per barrel. A duty of 3d. represented 2lb. of hops, and 2lb. of hops was the smallest quantity used with two bushels of malt, which represented a barrel of beer. He proposed to add 3d. per barrel in the shape of drawback on the export of beer, in order, for the first time, to compensate the exporter. The additions to the brewers' licence would be as follows:—Under 20 barrels, 2s.; under 100 barrels the licence would be at the rate of 1s. 1d. per barrel; from 100 to 1000, the addition would be at the rate of 1s. for each 50 barrels; from 1000 to 50,000 barrels, 14s. for each 50 barrels; and from 50,000 barrels upwards at the rate of 12s. 6d. for each 50 barrels. In short, the general principle was an addition to the brewers' licence of 3d. for each barrel, which was the minimum of hop duty which he now paid. With regard to the date, he proposed, if the House assented to the commutation he suggested, that the repeal of the hop duties should take effect from the 15th of next September, before which time the greater part of the hops now in the country would have passed into consumption. He did not consider that this was a case in which either public expediency or justice to individuals required the admission of anything like the principle of a drawback upon the stock in hand. It would not be just to the brewers that private brewing should go scot free. He proposed to exempt from the necessity of taking out a licence the occupiers of private houses of less than 20l. a year, and of a farm of not less than 150l. a year. But the occupiers of private houses above 20l. value and of farms of more than 150l. a year would be called upon to take out a licence for one uniform amount—namely, 12s. 6d. The financial effect of this plan would be as follows:—The average receipts from the excise duty on hops for the last ten years was £250,000, from Customs duties £39,000, and from brewers' licence £9,000, making altogether £398,000. But the cost of collecting the Excise duty was £50,000, so that the real proceeds to the Exchequer had been £348,000. The brewers' licence as now proposed, together with the charge upon private brewing, would produce £300,000. There would, therefore, be a loss to the revenue of £48,000. The House were now in possession of the proposals which the Government intended to make. The prominent features of his statement were the announcement of their intention to commence the year without a surplus of revenue over expenditure, and, secondly, the fact that they had been passing through a period which must be regarded in many circumstances as exceptional. On a comparison of the expenditure with that of last year, it would be found that the actual expenditure for 1861-2 was £70,838,000, and that the estimated expenditure for 1862-3 was £71,074,000, showing a total diminution of £1,718,000. The present level of our expenditure was such as ought to attract the serious attention of the House of Commons. It was a higher level than could be borne by the people in their present state of comfort and satisfaction, and it was higher than was compatible with a perfectly healthy and sound system of finance. The causes of our great expenditure he believed to be three—First, the permanent wants of the country, which it was necessary to supply; secondly, the prevailing apprehensions for the security of the country and the anxiety to make due provision for such security; thirdly, the importance of some relation between the establishments and expenditure of this country and those of other countries; and fourthly, and this was the most important point of all, it was due to demands which were in substance war demands, and which were out of the ordinary purposes and exigencies of our establishments. After reviewing the rate of expenditure of other countries, almost all of which had had recourse to loans, and explaining the state of our ordinary and extraordinary sources of revenue and expenditure, he went on to say that an impression prevailed that the public revenue was being squandered by the repeal of more taxes than the amount imposed. The total amount imposed during that period was £5,850,000; the amount repealed was £4,300,000; showing an excess of imposition of taxes of £1,550,000. The revenue, on the whole, stood thus:—In 1859 it was £63,920,000, whereas the estimated revenue for 1862-3, after deducting the items which did not appear on either side of the account, for the purpose of comparison, was £69,015,000. Out of this the sum of £1,600,000 was due to new taxes; and he would therefore deduct it. This showed that a revenue of £68,015,000; and that, notwithstanding the high figure at which the revenue had been maintained under the influence of a remission of taxation judiciously selected, the revenue of the country had risen from £63,920,000, in 1859, to £68,015,000, in 1862-3, or by the sum £4,095,000, showing an annual average improvement of one million per annum. Besides maintaining a heavy expenditure, they had avoided going into the market for loans; but to provide for these charges they had exhausted what he might call all the casual resources of the country, which were available no longer, and they must in future make their reckoning without them. Bad harvests and distress at home, and great complications abroad, might bring on circumstances involving the evil of fresh taxes, or the far greater one of loans. Good harvests and favourable circumstances abroad might carry them on without further taxation. If, however, they looked forward to the mission of the credit of the country by a cautious, judicious, and gradual, but yet resolute attempt to regulate the departments of the public service upon the principle of true and strict economy. The right hon. gentleman, in conclusion, moved a resolution on the wine duties, which he came to in force to-morrow. The right hon. gentleman then sat down, after having spoken close upon three hours.

A short conversation ensued, in which Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Ball, Sir W. Jolliffe, and other members took part. The resolution was agreed to.



THE CONFEDERATE IRON-CLAD STEAM-FRIGATE MERRIMAC.



THE FEDERAL IRON-PLATED FLOATING-BATTERY MONITOR.



GEORGE PEABODY, ESQ.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH, BY DISDERI.)

THE AMERICAN IRON-CLAD SHIPS OF WAR.

The recent encounter between the Merrimac (or Virginia, as she has been rechristened by the Confederate authorities) and the Monitor, of which we gave some particulars in our last week's Number, has excited so much interest, and is likely to lead to such important results, that we now add some further particulars in reference to these vessels and to the conflict between them. The accompanying Engravings of these now celebrated rival ironclads of the Western World will, we are certain, be especially acceptable to our readers, as showing the forms which these new engines of war have assumed. For a description of the Merrimac we must refer our readers to page 196 of our last Number; but, as her antagonist appears to be the favourite among those conversant with naval architecture, we add the following further particulars, which we derive from the New York papers, regarding

THE MONITOR.

The Monitor is a long, wide, and flat-bottomed vessel, with vertical sides and jointed ends, requiring but a very shallow depth of water to float in, though heavily loaded with impenetrable armour on her sides and with a bombproof deck. She is so low in the water as to afford no target to an enemy, while everything and everybody is below the water-line, with the exception of the men working the guns, who are protected by the shotproof turret in which the guns are placed. The sides of the ship are first formed of plate iron, 1/2 in. thick, outside of which is a layer of solid white oak 2 1/2 in. thick, on the outer surface of which is rolled iron armour plate, 5 in. thick. The bombproof deck is supported on broad oak beams, upon which is laid planking 7 in. thick, covered with 1-in. rolled plate iron. The turret consists of rolled 1-in. plate for the skeleton, to which is riveted two thicknesses of 1-in. plate, and outside these again are six other plates of rolled iron, all firmly bolted together with nuts inside, so that if a plate is started it can be at once tightened again into its proper position. The top of the turret is covered with a bombproof, perforated. The lower part of the gun-carriages consists of solid wrought iron beams, planed perfectly true. The guns are placed parallel with each other in the turret, and, consequently, point in the same direction. The ports are only just large enough to permit of the guns being thrust through when loaded, and are closed by wrought iron pendulums when the guns recoil. The turret is armed with two of the heaviest Dahlgren guns, and the whole revolves on the deck by the aid of a pair of engines placed beneath. The vessel is separated into two partitions by wrought iron bulkheads. The officers' quarters are roomy and handsome, and are lighted by openings from the deck. The Monitor's machinery consists of two horizontal condensing engines, of 40-in. diameter of cylinder, and a 22-in. stroke of piston, with two horizontal tubular boilers, containing 3000 square feet of fire surface. Her propeller is a four-bladed one, of 9 ft. diameter. The Monitor differs from Captain Cole's shield-ship in carrying her "turret" its whole height, 9 ft. above her upper deck, whereas Captain Cole sinks his turret through the upper deck resting it upon the turn-table on the next deck below, leaving nothing in view above the level of the upper deck but the sloping shields, like nothing more, to be easily understood as an illustration, than gigantic inverted tea saucers, through the sides of which peer the two guns. It is also worthy of special note to remark that the Confederates, in fitting the ports of the Merrimac, while adopting the long, narrow port of our iron ships, have reversed its position on the side of the ship, placing it longitudinally in lieu of vertically, as we have done. They thus get extreme training with their guns, an object which they declare to be of the greatest importance, but no elevation, which they declare to be of not the slightest importance to guns on the covered deck of an iron ship, as iron ships will never play a game of long-bowls. Our iron ships have elevation for their main-deck guns to a certain extent, but they cannot train their guns to any degree worth mention. The question is worthy of consideration, for it is evident that both ourselves and the Americans cannot be right. We must remark here, however, that experimental firing of late, from Captain Cole's model cupola at Portsmouth, proved in the most satisfactory manner that he can train the guns in his shield to 90 deg., while he can fire them in an almost perpendicular position. No other system of mounting a gun gives these advantages. There is, also, scarcely any limit to the weight of a gun mounted in the shields, whereas on the main deck of an ordinary ship there is a limit beyond which they cannot be worked.

THE MONITOR AT SEA.

The New York World states that

the Monitor was sent to sea wholly uncalculated. Not a particle of oakum was used upon her. Her deck needed this protection, for it was obvious from the moment of her conception that in rough weather the sea would break clear over her from stem to stern. Instead of being watertight, however, her deck leaked by the bucketful, deluging everything inside. In addition to this, the severity of the gale which she encountered on the 7th caused the waves to break over her smoke-stack, which is only four feet high, and the salt water poured down upon the flame from the furnace, forcing it to escape through the ashpans doors, and filling the firemen's and engine rooms with volumes of gas. The fumes stifled the men at their posts, and several fell down insensible. Two were so disabled as to have to be placed on the sick list, and others were scarcely able to render the assistance needed when the fires were extinguished. A night of horrors ensued, during which the tiller-ropes became unmanageable, and thus added to the difficulties of the situation. The gale was extremely severe, yet the buoyant qualities of the battery were found excellent. She did not pitch or roll to the extent expected.

JOHN ERICSSON, THE BUILDER OF THE MONITOR.

John Ericsson was born in 1803, in the province of Vermeland, among the iron mountains of Sweden. His father was a mining proprietor, so that in his youth he had ample opportunities to watch the operations of the various engines and machinery connected with the mines. At the age of ten years he constructed with his own hands, and after his own plans, a miniature sawmill, and also made numerous drawings of complicated mechanical contrivances, with instruments of his own invention and manufacture.

In 1814 he attracted the attention of the celebrated Count Platen, who had heard of his boyish efforts and desired an interview with him. After carefully examining the various plans and drawings which this youth exhibited on this occasion, the Count handed them back to him, simply observing, in an impressive manner, "Continue as you have commenced, and you will one day produce something extraordinary." After spending some years in the service of his native country as an officer in the Army, in which he attained the rank of Captain, during which Mr. Ericsson produced a vast number of plans, inventions, &c., and assisted in surveying a portion of Sweden, he came to England, in 1826, where he soon distinguished himself as an inventor and became connected with the engineering firm of Braithwaite. Mr. Ericsson was the first to apply to marine engines centrifugal blowers, now so common in America, in all boilers using anthracite coal. In the year 1831 he applied such a blower, worked by a separate small steam-engine, to the steam-packet Corsair, of 120-horse power, plying between Liverpool and Belfast.

Mr. Ericsson emigrated to the United States in 1839, then being thirty-six years old. His first great achievement after his arrival was the building of the United States' steam-frigate Princeton, the first vessel that steam was ever introduced into with the works below the water-line. She proved a complete success. About the same time he planned the French frigate Pomone, 50 guns, she also proving a great success. Captain Ericsson, after the completion of these vessels, gave his whole time to his favourite work—the completion of the caloric engine, which he has since brought to great perfection, though on a small scale. His next undertaking was the planning and invention of the steamer Ericsson, which, constructed on the caloric principle, plying for a time between New York and Albany, and sank in one of her trips a few years ago. He did the whole work, from the time her keel was laid to the moment that her paddles were first turned, in the brief space of seven months. Although not answering all that was commercially expected of her, the Ericsson was a mechanical success, speaking more than words of the great genius of the inventor. The name of Captain Ericsson has been comparatively unheard of for some time past, until the commencement of another new idea of his as illustrated so satisfactorily in the steam-battery Monitor. He signed the contract for her construction on the 5th day of last October, and on the 31st of December—being a period of two months and eight days—her steam, machinery, and propeller were put into operation, and on the one hundred and first working day she was launched.

THE NAMING OF THE MONITOR

The origin of the name given to the new marine battery is thus

explained by a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Navy at Washington by Captain Ericsson:—

New York, Jan. 20, 1862.

Sir,—In accordance with your request, I now submit for your approbation a name for the floating-battery at Green Point.

The impregnable and aggressive character of this structure will admonish the leaders of the Southern rebellion that the batteries on the banks of their rivers will no longer present barriers to the entrance of the Union forces.

The iron-clad intruder will thus prove a true "Monitor" to those leaders. But there are other leaders who will also be startled and admonished by the booming of the guns from the impregnable iron turret. Downing-street will hardly view with indifference this last Yankee notion—this "Monitor." To the Lords of the Admiralty the new craft will be a "Monitor," suggesting doubts as to the propriety of completing those four steel-clad ships at three millions and a half apiece.

On these, and many similar grounds, I propose to name the new battery "Monitor."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. ERICSSON.

THE ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The following letter, addressed by the engineer of the Monitor to Captain Ericsson, has been published in the New York papers:—

Iron-clad Monitor, Hampton-roads, March 9.

My dear Sir,—After a stormy passage, which proved this to be the finest sea-boat I was ever in, we fought the Merrimac for more than three hours this forenoon, and sent her back to Norfolk in a sinking condition. Iron-clad against iron-clad, we manoeuvred about the bay here, and went at each other with mutual fierceness. I consider that both ships were well fought. We were struck twenty-two times, pilot-house twice, turret nine times, side armour eight times, and deck three times. The only vulnerable point was the pilot-house. One of your great logs (9 in. by 12 in. thick) is broken in two. The shot struck just outside of where the Captain had his eye, and it has disabled him, by destroying his left eye and temporarily blinding the other. The log is not quite in two, but is broken and pressed inward 1 1/2 in. She tried to run us down and sink us, as she did the Cumberland yesterday; but she got the worst of it. Her bow passed over our deck, and our sharp upper-edged side cut through the light iron shoe upon her stem and well into her oak. She will not try that again. She gave us a tremendous thump, but did not injure us in the least. We are just able to find the point of contact.

The turret is a splendid structure. I don't think much of the shield, but the pendulums are fine things, though I cannot tell you how they would stand the shot, as they were not hit.

You were very correct in your estimate of the effect of shot upon the man on the inside of the turret when it was struck near him; three men were knocked down, of whom I was one; the other two had to be carried below, but I was not disabled at all, and the others recovered before the battle was over. Captain Worden stationed himself at the pilot-house, Greene fired the guns, and I turned the turret until the captain was disabled, and was relieved by Greene, when I managed the turret myself, Master Stodden having been one of the two stunned men.

Captain Ericsson, I congratulate you upon your great success. Thousands have this day blessed you. I have heard whole crews cheer you. Every man feels that you have saved this place to the nation by furnishing us with the means to whip an iron-clad frigate that was, until our arrival, having it all her own way with our most powerful vessels.

I am, with much esteem, very truly yours,

ALBAN C. STIMES.

[The "log" alluded to is made of wrought iron of the best material.]

CONFEDERATE ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE MERRIMAC AND MONITOR.

The following account of the encounter between the Monitor and Merrimac (which latter, it is to be noted, is spoken of under her new name of the Virginia) is given in a Richmond newspaper, and, as will be seen, differs somewhat from the Federal accounts previously published, especially in reference to the damage alleged to have been sustained by the Confederate ship:—

Some detention occurred on board the Virginia on Sunday morning or she would have commenced the engagement much earlier than half-past eight o'clock, at which time she, together with the Patrick Henry and Jamestown and our other gun-boats, opened fire on the Minnesota. The tide being at the ebb, the Virginia did not take the channel where the Minnesota lay, probably for fear of grounding, but, getting within a good range of her, she opened fire with terrific effect, completely riddling her and rendering constant exertion at the pump necessary to prevent her from filling. Early in the morning the Ericsson battery, now called the Monitor, was discovered off Newport News Point, she having gone up there during the night. A sharp encounter soon took place between her and the Virginia, during which time they were frequently not more than thirty or forty yards apart. Unfortunately, the Virginia ran aground; and the Ericsson, using her advantage, poured shot after shot into her, but without doing any serious damage. In a short while, however, the Virginia succeeded in getting off; and, putting on a full head of steam, ran her bow into the Ericsson, doing her, as it is thought, great damage. We are rejoiced to say that, notwithstanding the firing was much heavier than on Saturday, there were no casualties in either of our vessels, not a man being in the least injured by shots from the enemy or otherwise. Several of the enemy's gun-boats being within range, they were favoured with a shell or two from the Virginia with telling effect, in every case disabling or sinking them. One of those lying alongside the Minnesota had a shell thrown aboard of her, which, on bursting, tore her asunder and sent her to the bottom. Having completely riddled the Minnesota and disabled the St. Lawrence and Monitor, besides, as stated above, destroying several of the enemy's gun-boats—in a word, having accomplished all that they designed, and having no more material to work upon, our noble vessels left the scene of their triumphs and returned to the yard, where they await another opportunity of displaying their prowess.

CONSTRUCTION OF IRON-CLAD SHIPS.

The conflict in the James River has given rise to much discussion on the subject of the construction of iron-clad ships, fortifications, &c.; and, besides the debate in the House of Commons on Monday evening, several public bodies in London have had the topic under consideration, the proceedings of two of which are briefly noticed below.

INSTITUTE OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS.

The Institution of Naval Architects met on Saturday—Sir John Pakington presiding—when the business commenced by Mr. Norman Russell reading a paper on Stevens' American Floating Battery. Mr. Russell said the Americans placed great value on speed, and were ready to sacrifice almost everything else to obtain it.

Captain Halsted, in speaking on the paper, entered at great length into various questions connected with naval architecture. In the course of his speech he alluded to the Warrior, and argued that as she was not entirely protected with armour plating she was worthless for fighting purposes.

Mr. Scott Russell said that, in building a vessel like the Warrior, they must make a choice as between advantages and disadvantages. They could not get the system of entire protection with the other advantages. It was said that the Warrior rolled a good deal; but he thought it was a great triumph in naval architecture that she did not roll more, which would be the case if the principle of entire protection was adopted.

The Chairman said that in building the Warrior the principle of entire protection had been abandoned in order that speed and seagoing qualities might be secured. The Warrior was the fastest man-of-war yet built; and, from the way in which she had stood the recent gale in the Bay of Biscay, her seagoing qualities might be affirmed. Even if the worst should happen, and the vessel should be shot through her bows, there would be no more danger in getting her into harbour than there would be with any other ship.

UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.

In the United Service Institution, on Monday evening, Captain Simonds read a paper describing some new improvements in the building of ships which have been made by himself and Mr. Roberts, the well-known engineer at Manchester. These improvements comprise a great variety of plans for giving additional strength to iron ships, for diminishing their draught of water, for increasing their speed, and for facilitating their storage. It is proposed to strengthen iron ships by the introduction of cellular beams, or girders, along and across the deck and at the bottom; and, to avoid the waste of space which this plan would otherwise occasion, the spaces of the cells are to be used as cabins, stables (in troop-ships), and coal-bunkers. By the adoption of this system of construction it is expected that much greater stability will be given to that part of steam-ships which requires it most, but which, according to the usual mode of construction, is generally the weakest. The form of ships is also proposed to be altered, by making them much broader and more flat-bottomed, by which means the draught will be greatly diminished; and to have two cellular keels, by which means ships so constructed would make quite as little leeway as those that are much deeper in the water with a single keel, and they would be stronger and more steady in a rough sea. The latter property, it was observed, is of great importance in war ships, as it increases the precision of fire. For propelling such vessels two small screws

are to be employed, fixed to parallel shafts near the bottom, the shafts being turned with increased velocity by gearing, and the blades of the screws being so placed as to produce forward motion when turning in different directions. There are to be four engines, situated as close as possible to the bottom of the ship. By these arrangements it is expected that the propellers will be less liable to foul, that they will be less exposed to injury from accidents or from shot, and that, by having two independent means of propulsion, if either of them should be disabled, the ship might still be propelled, though at a slower rate. To facilitate the storage there are to be two rudders fixed below the screws, the whole of the "dead wood" being removed, and the action of the two propellers may also be brought to bear in steering; therefore, Captain Simonds anticipates that a large ship may be turned round within its own length. Increase of speed is also one of the advantages which it is expected will be gained by this system of construction. Several models of ships, showing the arrangement of the propellers and rudders and the form of the bottom of the ships, were exhibited, but no ship of a large size has yet been constructed on this principle.

A discussion took place after the reading of the paper, in which Mr. Samuda, Captain Fishbourne, Mr. Roberts, and other gentlemen took part. Mr. Samuda said that there were many parts of the invention which were quite new to him; but with regard to the two propellers and to the plan of fixing the rudder, experience had proved, on many occasions when similar plans had been tried, that they did not answer.

THE WARRIOR AS A STEAM-RAM.

Mr. J. Ford, of the Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company writes:—

The exploits of the Merrimac having fully demonstrated that a vessel of war capable of using her prow as a means of offence is a much more formidable object to her enemy than an ordinary vessel which is not built with a running-down stem, it will doubtless be satisfactory to the public to know that our noble ship the Warrior, although now presenting the graceful outline and appearance of a gigantic yacht, is so constructed that, at the cost of a few hundred pounds, she may be converted into an irresistible ram, fully capable of running down any number of wooden ships without injury to herself. It is only necessary to take away the overhanging cutwater, figurehead, &c., when a stem of gigantic proportions and enormous strength, forged and fitted with this object, will make its appearance, and to this the bow-plates can be easily connected. The Merrimac, being a wooden vessel, received such considerable injury to her bow in running down and sinking the Cumberland as to oblige her to go into dock for repairs; but there are so many examples of iron vessels with stems vastly inferior in strength to the Warrior running down other ships without receiving any injury that no such fear need be entertained on her account.

CAPTAIN COLES ON IRON SHIPS AND FORTIFICATIONS.

In a letter to the Times, Captain Coles improves the occasion on behalf of his inventions, by renewing an attack upon the projected fortifications at Spithead and elsewhere. He regards the experiments in the James River as conclusive—the empire of the sea belongs to iron ships.

Let us pause for a moment, and transfer these scenes to our own shores; let us imagine, at Portsmouth or London, for instance, the intelligence has been received of the approach of one of these iron monsters; let us suppose that the forts upon which so much is to be spent, and upon which our security is to be based, have been erected, and that the fleet (one of the conditions urged for their erection) is absent; where, I would ask, would be the feeling of security which the Commissioners exult in when we have these facts staring us in the face? What protection would these forts at Spithead be against such vessels, which need never come within 1000 yards of these forts, and at the same time be within good bombarding distance of the dockyard? I maintain, as I always have done, that these forts will be worse than useless, for they would only add to the smoke and confusion of action, and exhaust those resources which the nation supplies for the security of its industry and commerce. This action, Sir, has proved every word that I wrote advocating an organised coast defence (or patrol) of iron-clad ships, in lieu of those immovable forts, which ships, if ever we possess them, must not permit a vessel to come near our ports, but must grapple with and arrest her as the Monitor did the Merrimac. I will, therefore, merely draw your attention to the late Admiral Sir R. S. Dundas's letter to the Royal Commissioners, wherein he shows that for the estimated expense of £240,000 of these three forts at Spithead twenty of our screw and now useless line-of-battle ships could be converted into most efficient iron blockships. It must be remarked that the Monitor, which is described as fitted with a revolving tower on my principle, and carrying only two guns, drove the Merrimac of ten guns off. It is not my wish now to advocate my principle, for, after the complete success of my experiments and the achievements of the Monitor, it is unnecessary—facts speak for themselves; but I will undertake to show that I can convert into a shield-ship any of those screw line-of-battle ships. She shall be practically invulnerable, and she shall carry a broadside according to her tonnage of from twelve to fourteen guns, 110 or 68 pounders. If 300-pounders are brought into use, she shall carry a broadside of from five to six of them, and that these ships shall work those heavy guns when the Warrior and such like vessels dare not open their ports. Let me again ask if a coast patrol as I propose of these converted vessels, with others carrying from two guns up to twelve, would not give this country more security than these forts which are estimated at millions but may cost any amount before completed, and then only serve as unmistakable beacons for the enemy's iron-clad ships to pass between?

MR. GEORGE PEABODY.

This gentleman whose recent gift to the poor of London has excited universal admiration and awakened the grateful feelings of all true philanthropists, is a native of Danvers, in the State of Massachusetts. He was born on February 18, 1795; his parents were in humble circumstances, and his early education was acquired at the district "common school." At the age of eleven he was placed in a grocer's store in Danvers, in which situation he spent four years. After a year's rural life with his grandfather, in Vermont, he went to Newburyport, Massachusetts, as clerk to his elder brother, who had opened a dry goods' shop there. He afterwards was in business with his uncle at Georgetown, district of Columbia, for two years. In 1814 he withdrew from this concern, and became a partner with Mr. Elisha Riggs, in the dry-goods trade, Mr. Riggs furnishing the capital and Mr. Peabody the business talent. In 1816 the house was removed to Baltimore, and in 1822 branch houses were established in Philadelphia and New York. In 1827 Mr. Peabody crossed the Atlantic for the first time, to purchase goods. In 1829 he became senior partner by the retirement of Mr. Riggs. On several occasions of his visits to England he was intrusted with important financial negotiations by the State of Maryland. Early in 1837 he took up his residence in England. In 1843 he withdrew from the concern of Peabody, Riggs, and Co., and founded a banking-house in London. In the crisis of 1837 he rendered valuable assistance towards the maintenance of American credit in England. The banking-house he established has been the head-quarters of his countrymen resident in or passing through London, and the centre of American news. His Fourth of July dinners at the Star and Garter, Richmond, soon became public events, and served to bring English and American gentlemen together in agreeable intercourse. In 1852, at the bicentenary anniversary of his native town, he sent a cheque for 20,000 dols. to be expended in the founding of a lyceum and library for the town. By subsequent donations this sum was raised to 60,000 dols., and the institution was opened in or about 1857 with great éclat. In the latter year he gave to certain citizens of Baltimore the sum of 500,000 dols. to found an institute in that city for the promotion of science, literature, and the fine arts, the opening of which, as he regretfully states, has been retarded by the civil war in America, which is felt with peculiar keenness in Baltimore. Passing stealthily through the terrible financial crises of 1857 and 1861, the house of George Peabody and Co. continued to amass wealth; and the head of that house has put the capital on the column of his benefactions by the magnificent donation of £150,000 for the benefit of the poor of London—a donation which will entitle him to take a place among that illustrious gallery of England's worthies who, in the sixteenth century, made their money by happy mercantile "adventures," and left large portions of their gains to found schools for the benefit of the rising generation of their fellow-townsmen or almshouses for the poor and aged.

THE DEAN AND CHANCELLOR OF WESTMINSTER, through the High Constable, have engaged two interpreters to attend the numerous foreigners who, during the Exhibition season, will daily visit the Abbey, to explain to them the parts of the edifice where the monuments to great men's memories have been erected, and the inscriptions upon them.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

Having regard to the large demand which the necessary illustrations and notices of the Great International Exhibition will shortly require, in order to give due prominence to this important matter, the Editors of the Paper will be absolutely necessary. The intention is to increase the dimensions of the present sheet will be increased to a considerable extent. The quality of the paper will at the same time be improved, to enable justice to be done to the numerous engravings which it is intended to produce in connection with the Great International Exhibition of 1862.

In addition to the above, the Proprietors have to announce that during the Exhibition will remain open it is their intention to issue the ILLUSTRATED TIMES a series of

GRATUITOUS ILLUSTRATED SUPPLEMENTS.

Each representation of the interior of the Exhibition building from the interesting points of view, and also of its more remarkable contents. Illustrations will be drawn and engraved in the most careful manner, and will be printed separately on fine paper.

The proposed change in the size of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES will take effect on Saturday, May 3, the Number for which date will contain an account of the opening of the Exhibition, very fully illustrated. On this occasion the first gratuitous illustrated Supplement will be issued, to be followed at intervals by the remaining Supplements.

The Price of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES in its enlarged form will be 3s. 1d. and the Number for May 3 will form the commencement of a new volume, which will comprise an elaborate illustrated record of the Great International Exhibition of 1862 complete in itself.

With the ILLUSTRATED TIMES for April 26 a Titlepage and Index to Vol. XIV. will be issued.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1862.

SHIPS IN ARMOUR.

THE doings of the American iron-plated vessels—the Merrimac and the Monitor—have aroused in England an interest hitherto unprecedented in the course of the existing fratricidal war between the Unionist and the Seceding States. The question illustrated by the contests of these two ships is one of peculiar importance to the English nation. It has been practically demonstrated that an iron-plated vessel can at will sink, shatter, and utterly destroy a ship of war formed upon the old plan of construction. This mass of shot-proof iron, with not an unnecessary inch of porthole beyond what is required for the absolute manœuvring of its own guns, furnished with means of running down an enemy, inaccessible to boarders, and almost invisible at a distance whence its artillery can ply with fatal effect, has become the wonder of the day. Alarmists, of whom there are always plenty, seize upon the narration as a theme on which to build the foundation of new apprehensions. One or two such vessels, say they, might destroy our coast fortifications, scuttle our Navy, and shell and destroy at pleasure every seaside town from the Solway round the Land's End to the Tweed. Another class, less timid and more rash, proposes the instant conversion of our wooden fleet into vessels upon the new principle. As for Brother Jonathan, his usual propensity to brag exhibits itself as a matter of course. He has shown these Britishers how to fight at sea. His vessel, the Monitor, was so named to intimate a caution to our blundering Board of Admiralty, and so forth. Jonathan forgets that our Warrior had become an European celebrity before his Merrimac and Monitor were named outside their own dockyards; and that if anything whatever is to be learned from his duel of iron-plated vessels, it is he who has to pay the cost, and every other nation who rears the gratuitous advantage from the lesson.

But there is really no occasion whatever to imagine that a nation hitherto maintaining a position by sheer pluck and energy can be swamped suddenly by any ingenious mechanical contrivance. All arts of warfare have hitherto resulted in placing both parties upon the same level as before. The unparalleled genius of Archimedes could not save him from the fate of a victim in the pillaged city he had laboured to defend. Tyre fell notwithstanding its desperate devices for destroying attacking vessels and for whelming the soldiers of Alexander in red-hot sand, which, pouring through the crevices of their armour, blinded them or drove them mad with horrible agony. No doubt, even the first bow and arrow gave a seeming advantage to its possessor. Ages afterwards the military power of England was supposed to depend upon the skill of its bowmen. Did that power decrease when "villanous salt-petre" was first digged? When at Bayonne it was first shown that a dagger could be so affixed to the muzzle of a musket as not to interfere with its discharge, was the discovery a fatal blow to Britain, whose sons had not made it?

We will, for argument, assume these iron-plated ships to be as invulnerable and as destructive as their encomiasts assert. Granting all this, we would suggest that something more than even these qualities is required for purposes of foreign aggression. There is, for instance, the human element, not altogether to be despised in such matters. How are sailors to live confined beneath the deck of a vessel with a sloping iron roof only eighteen inches above the water? They may fight, on occasion, within such a structure; but we can safely predict that, should they attempt to cross the Atlantic at eight knots an hour (the Merrimac's utmost speed) in any such contrivance, and not sink on the way, which would be most probable, no European cruiser need fear the poor physically and mentally prostrated creatures who would be found the last few survivors in her hold.

Centuries ago men used to fight in armour—human iron-plated Warriors. Why was the defence disused? Not on account of the new artillery, which penetrated the armour as it had done the buff jerkin; for armour long survived the use of gunpowder; but because its inconveniences counterbalanced its defensive powers. The men in armour were safe, but they

could not move. And in campaigns the power of rapid motion is of inestimable value to an army. That "more battles are won by legs than by arms," was a maxim of Napoleon I. The principle will be found to be as reliable at sea as on land. A modern war-steamer, not iron-plated, will always have the advantage of being able to get away from her more cumbersome though better-defended antagonist. But then the ship in armour may force the other to sheer off, which may be the very thing most desired. This may be so; and, letting the matter stand thus, the iron-plated vessel will be of immense advantage to England, who has the most valuable of all coasts to defend and the most available means of producing and manufacturing iron in the whole universe.

But, whatever may be the peculiar merits of this or any other novel system of warfare, we may feel quite assured that England will be neither slow nor unskilful in taking advantage of them. Bring war to what you will, in the way of instruments and engines, the solidity and pluck of a nation underlies the whole affair, and decides it eventually, Vauban fortifications, Paixhan guns, or iron-plated vessels notwithstanding.

THE REVENUE.

	Quarter end. March 31, 1862.	Quarter end. March 31, 1861.	Year end. March 31, 1862.	Year end. March 31, 1861.	Year end. March 31, 1862.	Year end. March 31, 1861.
	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.
Customs...	5,721,000	5,821,000	23,671,000	23,671,000	368,223	—
Excise...	5,041,000	4,877,000	18,332,000	18,135,000	—	1,197,000
Stamps...	2,293,915	2,191,170	8,790,915	8,318,112	212,553	—
Taxes...	375,000	314,000	3,100,000	3,127,000	—	33,000
Property-tax...	1,127,000	1,024,000	10,365,000	10,923,816	—	558,816
Post Office...	900,000	895,000	3,310,000	3,400,000	110,000	—
Crown Lands...	77,521	75,000	295,000	290,568	1,432	—
Miscellaneous...	780,115	338,816	1,717,531	1,163,101	294,133	—
Total...	19,666,611	18,533,956	69,671,179	70,283,671	1,652,621	1,661,816
					Net decrease	£609,195

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND is expected on a visit to the Emperor and Empress of the French about the 23rd of April, and will remain a month. Towards the end of that period the King of Holland will also, it is thought, pay a visit to the French Court.

THE PRIZE MEETING of the National Rifle Association will be held at Wimbledon, beginning on Tuesday, July 1.

THE INHABITANTS of the WARD of LANGHORN purpose entertaining their Alderman, the Lord Mayor, at a banquet on the 8th of May next.

THE PORTLAND GALLERY EXHIBITION of PICTURES, after struggling for many years with great difficulties, has at last succumbed, and will not open this year.

THE ASSISTANT MARRIAGE at Eron has been conferred upon the Rev. Naughton Lemuel Shulman, M.A., Dean of Magdalen College, Oxford.

THERE are at present living in the town of Crieff, Scotland, seven persons—five men and two women—whose united ages amount to 633 years. All the persons are enjoying good health.

THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR UNITED SERVICE and the ARMY and NAVY CLUBS intend, it is said, to allow foreign officers of distinction to become honorary members during the continuance of the Exhibition.

THE FIRST INTIMATION received by the Federal forces of the evacuation of the Confederate batteries at Manassas came from a "contraband," a negro boy.

WILLIAM EMBROW, late rate-collector at Grantham, has been charged before the magistrates of the borough with embezzling £1000, collected by him in his official capacity.

THE COUNTESS DE PERIGNY gave a fancy ball last week, and appeared in a most ingeniously devised costume, representing a winter's night with flakes of snow. A guest wore a costume representing on one side marriage and on the other widowhood.

IN PULLING DOWN THE THIEVES' RANDEZVOUS in PARIS, called Lapin Blanc, immortalised in Eugene Sue's "Mystères de Paris," fifteen human skeletons have been found in a hole at the foot of one of the staircases of the house.

THE GOVERNMENT at WASHINGTON has rescinded the regulations which required persons arriving or departing from the United States to be provided with passports.

IN THE BACKBURY UNION 9010 persons were relieved last week. The full force of this statement is felt when it is known that this is 280 more than in the previous week and 1687 more than in the same week last year.

IN THE YEAR ENDING Dec. 31, 1861, 16,019,972 of letters were exported from Ireland, against 16,231,000 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

THE RIVER TRENT and its tributary streams have overflowed their banks and flooded the fields. The injury to the spring crops will be serious. Floods have also taken place in Nottinghamshire and other places, occasioning considerable damage.

AT THE LEWIS ARIZES John Cleary, a soldier, who was charged with having shot a student named O'Brien, at Colchester, under circumstances which will be fresh in the public recollection, was tried and found guilty.

A WOMAN, dressed as a man, was brought before the Manchester magistrates last week on a charge of assault. It transpired that for six years she had been taken for a man.

A CONVENT is now being held in Paris between the principal managers and the dramatic authors for the purpose of revising the regulations which have hitherto been in force respecting the performance of pieces which belong to the French Society of Dramatic Authors.

WHILE some men were engaged in testing rifles in Birmingham last week one shot missed the target and struck a girl at a considerable distance, killed an infant she had in her arms. The shot first went through the girl's hand, then through the infant's body, and finally through that of the girl, who is not expected to live. A verdict of manslaughter has been returned against the parties concerned.

BELSEY, the man who shot at a girl at Brighton a few days ago, has been tried at the Lewes Assizes, found guilty, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVED in MARSEILLES from TURKEY affirm that 30,000 Bulgarian families from the neighbourhood of the province of Salonica have gone over to the Roman Church.

THE NEAPOLITAN CONSUL, CHEVALIER RANIERI, who had hitherto been allowed, without any interference on the part of the Malta Government, to display the arms and flag of the ex-King of Naples on his residence, was ordered on the 7th ult. to take them down.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place between Sir Thomas Powell Buxton, son of the late Sir Edward Buxton, and Lady Victoria Noel, youngest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Gainsborough.

THE year ending Dec. 31, 1861, shows a great falling off in the exportation of spirits from Ireland, 79,513 gallons having only left the country, whereas in 1860 the quantity exported reached 175,227 gallons.

THE REV. MR. CAPPER, with his wife, daughter, governess, and two female servants, were stopped by brigands recently, about forty-five miles from Rome, and robbed.

NESSLEBROOK belonged, in a sort, to five different nations. He was born in the East, on board an English ship; his father was a Hatterian, his mother a Jewess, and he died a Russian, which he had been, by adoption, the greater part of his life.

THE Electric and International Telegraph Company's new submarine cable, for connecting England with the South of Ireland, has been successfully laid between the coasts of Pembroke and Wexford, in perfect working order.

THE OTHER DAY a man fell from the ranc of a church steeple at Thousley, Lancr. He first slipped on the roof, thence dropped into an apple-tree, and fell through the branches to the soft earth, making an indentation of more than a foot. He got up and seen after walked to his home, complaining only of a pain in his hip from falling on the branch of the tree.

Mr. CORDEN has a volume in the press, and which will shortly be published, in which he reviews the question of military and naval expenditure during the last twenty years, and deals with the panics under the influence of which the public has been induced to bear burdens so large, and, in the opinion of many persons, so unnecessary.

MRS. LIND GOLD-SMITH announces her intention of singing in London in the oratorios of "Messiah," "The Creation," and "Elijah," during the months of May and June next; the first in behalf of the Institution for Distressed Needlewomen; the second in aid of the Brompton Consumption Hospital; and the third in support of the Royal Society of Musicians of Great Britain and the Royal Society of Female Musicians.

A SPORTING PARK states that Heenan is on his way to England, with the view of testing the prowess of Jim Mace, the present pugilistic champion of England, and his right to hold the belt.

At a recent city election in Oskaloosa, Iowa, Mrs. Nancy Smith, Democratic, was elected mayor by a majority of 21 over the Republican male candidate for that office.

NANA SAHIB, who was supposed to have been captured, is said to be still in Nepal. The probability is, that if he still lives he has taken means to conceal his identity almost beyond the power of discovery.

According to a communication from Cassel, the Elector has ordered that, in future, functionaries and others employed by the Government who may have received an increase of salary, shall not be exempted from thanking him for it in person.

THE ORGANS of the PAPAL GOVERNMENT denies that there is any truth whatever in the recent "revolutions" regarding negotiations between Cardinal Antonelli and the late Count Cavour. For once, we believe the Roman journal.

1,977,992lbs. less of leaf tobacco were exported from Cuba last year than in the year before. Havannah exported 50,119,000 cigars less in 1861 than in 1860.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE excitement produced at the clubs and the House by the news of the marvellous exploits of the Monitor and the Merrimac has never been exceeded since the Crimean War. The intelligence was the one topic of conversation wherever you went. And when Sir Frederick Smith, the member for Chatham, a military engineer of long experience and great authority, brought the matter before the House there was a crowd of members to hear him. Early in the same evening one of the officers of the House received direct from New York a copy of the *Scientific American* containing admirable engravings of these two formidable sea monsters, and no sooner did it make its appearance than the greatest anxiety prevailed to get a sight of the pictures. The paper was taken to the Treasury Bench, and was there handed about to the Secretary for War, the Secretary of the Admiralty, the Premier, and others. Other views of the ships had been before seen, but the paper alluded to is a scientific paper like our *Engineer* and *Mechanics' Magazine*, and it was presumed that its illustrations were more likely to be correct than any others. It does not appear, however, to our knowing ones that at present the question of entire invulnerability is decisively settled by the exploits of these formidable vessels. It seems that they can be boarded. One of the ships was boarded; but, as there was no one on deck and no way down below but through the smoke-funnel, the boarders retired. "But," as a naval officer has suggested, "what if the boarders had dropped some live shells or some iron cases filled with gunpowder, with slow matches attached, through the aperture, or in the case of the Monitor, down the air-tubes?" Still it was acknowledged by all—engineers and sailors—that a new era has dawned upon naval warfare; that the propriety of erecting immovable forts upon our coasts, now that all but impregnable floating iron forts—martello towers afloat—can be constructed, is more than questionable. Ericsson, the contrivor of the Monitor, is a Swede; he was in England some years ago, and was in communication with the Admiralty, but was considered a mere scientific dreamer—a projector of impossibilities, and was politely bowed out. Whilst the House was discussing this question I could not help wishing that old Charley Napier were there to take part in the debate; but he is gone where not the faintest echo of the roar which comes booming over the Atlantic can reach him.

Mr. Henry Brinsley Sheridan has gained a great and unexpected victory over the Government, but he will not get his bill for the reduction of the odious duty on fire insurances passed this Session. He has, however, made a great advance; and, after that division, we may consider that this miserable tax upon prudence will at no distant day be abolished. Next to the bread tax and the window duty, I consider the tax upon insurance to be the worst that ever was invented. What if the Chancellor of the Exchequer should lay a tax upon life-boats, fire-engines, or fire-escapes! Well, is not this tax upon insurance much of the same character?

Lord Palmerston has his arm in a sling and looks somewhat emaciated and pale, but he walks well, talks well, jokes well, and stops in the House, as usual, to the end of the proceedings. On Tuesday morning he was almost the last man, although the House did not adjourn till past two o'clock. Apropos of his joking: some time ago he said to his bootmaker as he parted with him, "Mr. —, do you know the old English toast—

Here's a health to our friends, but as to our foes
May they have short shoes and come on their toes."

Brooks's Club has black-balled Mr. Robert Lowe, the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, and also Mr. Owen Stanley, twin brother of Lord Stanley of Alderley, the Postmaster General. Mr. Lowe was refused admission to this sacred inclosure of aristocratic Whigs on the suspicion that he writes for the *Times*. But why a member of the illustrious house of Stanley was excluded is a question I cannot decide. He is a director of the Chester and Holyhead Railway, and possibly this connection with commerce is deemed by these haughty exclusives a disqualifying defilement. But Mr. Crossley, the manufacturer, is a member—how came that about? These gentlemen seem to be capricious.

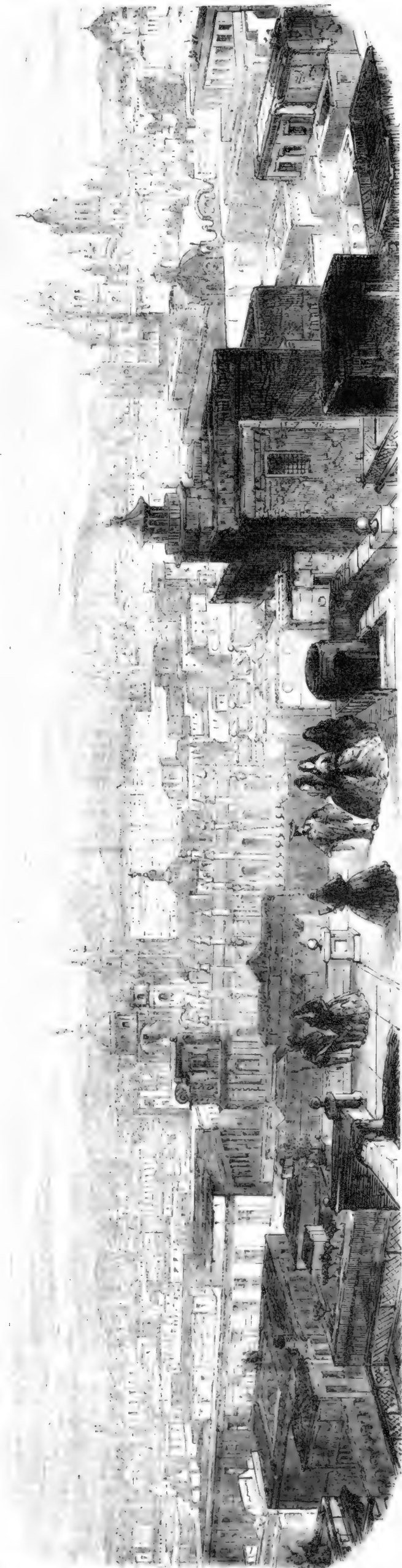
A little manual has just been issued by Messrs. Gun and Company American agents, Strand, which will be of great use to those who have business relations with America. It is a list of all the principal newspapers published in the United States and Canada, with the days of issue, price (including American postage), and other particulars regarding each. The United States' papers are arranged under the names of the several States in which they are published, and thus all confusion, arising from similarity of title and name of place of issue, is avoided. The list will be a decided boon to advertisers and others desirous of making any announcement public in America.

THE TOWER.—Every part of the Tower is undergoing alterations. In the White Tower, the Great Banqueting Chamber, as well as the Council Chamber above it, are now studded with arm-racks sufficient to contain thousands of arms. From its appearance it will be equal, if not superior, to the one burnt in 1811. Hundreds of men are employed, particularly in getting the old garrison in preparation for the reception of foreigners during the exhibition. The entrance for visitors into those spacious rooms is at the south side, and comes out at the north side, opposite the Jewel House. Henry the Eighth's Chapel is also being put in order.

MR. BRADON, the senior magistrate at the Marlborough-street Police Court, died on Sunday last at Stratford-place, Oxford-street. Mr. Bradon, who had filled the office of magistrate fifteen years at Wandsworth and Marlborough-street, had been in ill-health for the past two years.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.—We hear that Mr. Tom Taylor has cleverly catered for the entertainment, at the above place of amusement, of the cosmopolitan multitude which is likely to patronise the gallery during the run of the Great Exhibition, for among the "illustrations" are those of English, Scotch, Welsh, Irish, and French character, pleasantly relieved by a variety of new ballads, concerted pieces, and selected music.

FATAL EFFECTS OF PRACTICAL JOKING.—A dreadful instance of the danger of playing practical jokes occurred a few days since in the neighbourhood of St. Eloi (Dordogne), France. It is a custom among the peasantry there to give a new-married couple about twelve o'clock on their wedding-night a basin of garlic soup, called *fourrin* in the dialect of the country. At the marriage in question some foolish person put a quantity of laudanum into the mess, and the unhappy couple were next morning found dead in their bed. The police have instituted an inquiry.



GENERAL VIEW OF MEXICO.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY M. CHARNY.)

MEXICO.

Mexico, which once held so strange and terrible a part in European and American history, is again the scene of events which grow daily more interesting. The wild and barbarous splendours of this mysterious land, which tempted the early adventurers to conquest and cruelty, are to-day laid open before a regular and disciplined army, who are prepared to defend the European inhabitants against the oppression of half-savage rulers or merciless tyrants, and it may be that this is but the beginning of a series of events which will ultimately open the country to European

enterprise and civilisation. It was scarcely a mere dream which led the early navigators of the South American waters to go in search of El Dorado, for Mexico is, in truth, that very golden country. Rich in all the wealth which the vast storehouses of Nature hold, its mountain ranges and luxuriant valleys abound with everything which can be desired; and although within the torrid zone, the climate is temperate and delightful. All the metals are found in its mines—gold, silver, iron, lead, tin, copper, and quicksilver. Precious stones are to be discovered in all their rich variety; mountains of loadstone, and quarries of marble, jasper, and por-

phyry, add to the enormous minera products, which are only exceeded by those of Peru. Before the War of Independence there were more than 3000 mines producing annually about 21,000,000 dobs. in silver and 2,000,000 dobs. in gold. Vast herds of cattle range in thousands over the immense plains; more than 200 species of birds, some of them of gorgeous plumage, find a home amidst the wooded valleys; and vegetables, fruits, and balsamic and resinous plants abound with almost spontaneous profusion. It was no mere fancy which gave to this glowing and beautiful country the name of the golden land. Its capital,

the city of Mexico, of which we give a general view in our Engraving, is so spacious and well built, that it is, perhaps, the most regularly constructed city in the world, the streets being exactly disposed so as to secure a remarkable uniformity of appearance. On leaving Vera Cruz, after having crossed the defiles which separate that city from Mexico, the traveller reaches the highest summit of a rocky region; the Alpine fir trees have succeeded to the tropical vegetation of the coast, and he sees before him a valley the utmost limits of which are lost in the deep blue of the horizon. On the east tower the lofty peaks of Ixtaccinath and



THE NATIONAL CHARACTER.

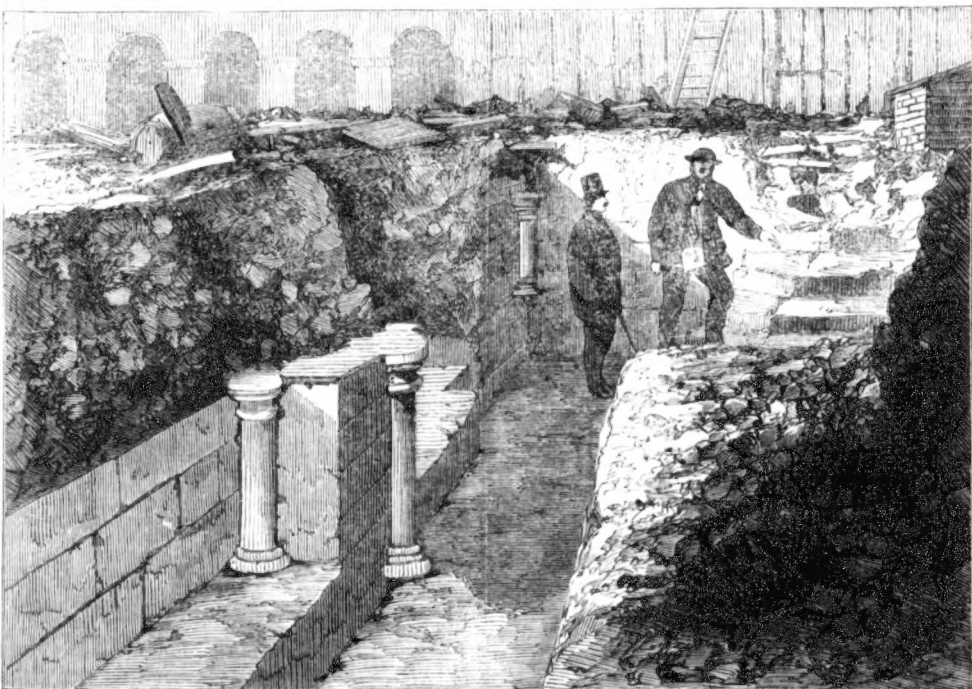


TYPS OF MEXICAN CHARACTER.

Papocatepsth, the volcanic giants of the Cordilleras. Two series of hills intersect this valley from north to south. Farther down towards the west may be seen the indications of the former overfall, by which the lake left its alluvial bed to form the valley, for at the time of the conquest of Mexico the place where Tenachtillon was situated (the present site of the city of Mexico) was surrounded by vast lagoons, the remains of the primitive lake itself. There now exists only one, however—the lake of Chalco, which communicates with the capital by a canal, the immediate vicinities of the city having been drained at vast expense under the Spanish domination. The plain still contains large numbers of olive trees brought thither from Spain, and gigantic trees like cedars rear themselves above the hedges of prickly cactus which inclose many of the gardens belonging to the houses. The general aspect of the country, however, is remarkable for the extinct volcanoes which dot its surface in every direction, rising in great abrupt cones like the tumuli of some buried race, their red lava covered here and there with the bright green of abundant vegetation. The first view of Mexico is bounded by an extended wall, above which rise clock-towers, lofty spires, and the domes of churches, giving but little preparation for the real magnificence of the city, and the plain gate by which it is entered is strangely contrasted by the splendid edifices which adorn the streets.

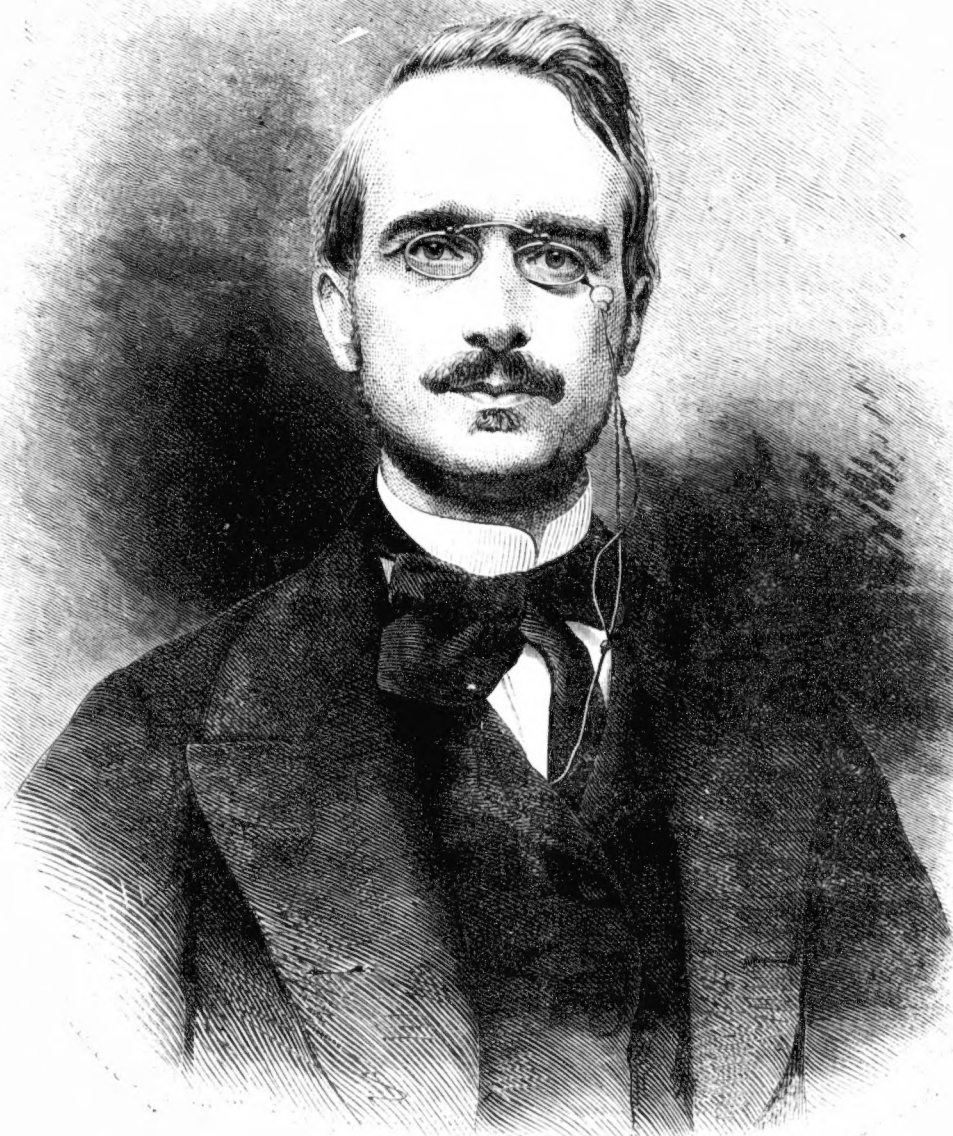
To this magnificent and ancient city are brought such of the products of the fertile country around as are necessary to the inhabitants, and the primitive modes by which the merchants convey their wares and sell them in the market-place furnish picturesque displays, both of costume and character, which could be seen in no other part of the world. Here may be seen every variety of brilliant colour in the dresses of the people: the long serape, richly ornamented; the broad trousers of the "jarocho," thickly studded with buttons of gold; the cavalier who gallops so fiercely past wears a pair of boots so marvelously worked that they would buy a European wardrobe; the huge hats are decked with gold-lace of price. The "jarocho," indeed, looks like the king of the forest, and bears himself as though his short sword would cut through every danger and dismay every foe. The costumes of the women are equally gay in colour and graceful in form; but, although the "reboso," or loose scarf which hangs from the head, is still retained, and the lower class of the women walk barefooted, the mysterious crinoline has reached Mexico, and extends even the short skirts of the "poblana" who stands basking in the sun. The pariahs of the capital are the "leperos," who are squalid and half-naked. Wearing rags more tattered than those of the most wretched beggars ever seen in Europe, they are a race altogether removed from the gaudy splendour of their countrymen.

The market-place in the city of Mexico is of considerable size, and, indeed, is the most animated part of the city. Provisions arrive by the canal which leads from Lake Chalco; and from early sunrise scores of canoes of every shape and size bear their animal and vegetable cargoes upon its still waters. In the forepart of these canoes are heaped vegetables native to Europe and the innumerable fruits of the tropics, while in the stern the Mexican boatmen, in their garments of blue or white cotton relieved by the mass of their shining black hair, push their craft forward by means of long poles. Many of the boats hold poultry and game, brought to the market by the Indians, who strip the birds of their feathers during the journey, and scatter the refuse in the streams. Argosies of Indian wheat, butter, fruit, and flowers float gaily along, while, to relieve the tedium of the journey, some musical boatman twangs his guitar to the notes of a native song. Arrived at the landing-place, the voyagers discharge their cargoes, and take them on their backs to the market, where they stimulate the purchasers by carrying a portion of their wares from place to place. The poultry merchant



THE REMAINS OF ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL IN THE TEMPLE.

SIGNOR RATAZZI, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT TURIN.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY M. CARIAT.)



shoulders the square wooden cage in which his ducks are inclosed, clamouring for a buyer; Indians go about with baskets and straw hats, the latter worn on the head, one above the other, till they tower above the crowd, or sell prepared skins, cotton stuffs, wool and pottery ware; and, above all, the indispensable "aguador," with his picturesque dress and great, cool-looking earthen jars, moves amongst the crowd, selling a refreshing draught, too often superseded by that of his competitor, the seller of "palque," the favourite Mexican stimulant, the latter, however, being mostly confined to the meaner streets.

Fish are scarce in Mexico, the best being those called *Pesca blanca* (white fish), which resemble our smelts; there is also a species of whitebait, a delicate little fish which is wrapped in a maize leaf, and afterwards fried. The lower class of the population of Mexico consume everything eatable which can be obtained for little money, their principal food consisting of vegetables and fruits, plantains, bananas, ananas, mangoes, tomatas, melons, pumpkins, citrons, and dates, while their delicacies are frogs, small turtles, and a species of locust. A strange contrast is suggested to the stranger as he walks from the busy market-place of Mexico, and wanders down some of those long regular streets where the shadows from the richly-decorated churches fall upon the wayfarer as he dreams of Cortes and Pizarro, the Incas and the Aztecs, and of the stories of the marvellous city upon the ruins of which he stands.

RATAZZI.

The political events which are likely to affect the fate of Italy depend so greatly upon the policy adopted by the President of the Cabinet at Turin, that he is already watched with a jealousy which may easily be alarmed into a doubt of the influences under which he meets the demands of the popular representatives. At present, however, there would appear to be little cause for the suspicions with which his accession to office has been regarded, and he may yet be able to refute the opinions of those who see in his acceptance by the Italian Government a delay in those

measures which "would secure" the national independence.

M. Urban Ratazzi was born at Alessandria on the 30th of June, 1808. At the age of twenty-one he took his Doctor's degree, was made Professor of the Royal University in 1836, was called to the Bar of Casal in 1838, and in less than a year from that date had established a reputation as one of the most judicious and able lawyers in Italy. In the struggles of 1848, M. Ratazzi acquired so much renown by his high attainments and liberal opinions that the electors of Alessandria returned him as their representative in the Assembly of Turin. He had scarcely arrived to take his seat there before he was intrusted by M. Casati with the ministry of Public Instruction. The latter Minister, however, lived but a short time after this appointment, and Ratazzi occupied a distinguished place among the Opposition party. In 1849 the Abbe Gioberti, who was charged with the formation of a new Cabinet, conferred upon him the office of Keeper of the Seal, which he shortly quitted to rise to the rank of Minister of the Interior. On the fall of Gioberti from power, Ratazzi at once succeeded him as President of the Council, where he used his influence to advance the impatient policy of Charles Albert, and, in the inevitable defeat which resulted from the measures adopted, remained firmly attached to his party. On the voluntary exile of his master to Oporto, Ratazzi waited on him to convey those expressions of attachment with which he was intrusted by the Sardinian people, and Charles Albert commended the Minister as "dear to his heart," and as "having served him with the greatest zeal and devotion." In 1853, Ratazzi was again chosen as Minister of the Interior, and held the appointment till 1859, when, after the treaty of Villafranca, he superseded Count Cavour in the presidency, but was compelled, notwithstanding his capacity for hard work and his many statesmanlike qualities, to relinquish the direction of affairs. He has now succeeded Baron Ricasoli in office, however, and, if large experience is any guarantee, may be supposed to bring to his high office most of the qualifications necessary for the present critical state of Italian affairs. M. Ratazzi is a clear, fluent, and energetic speaker, and his memory is so prodigious that he rarely makes any use of notes during the debates. For the varied qualities which are necessary to form an eminent Parliamentary orator he is said to have no equal in the Italian Assembly.

THE REMAINS OF ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL IN THE TEMPLE.

The discovery of these remains has caused some excitement amongst the dwellers in the Temple. They were found while excavating in Lamb's-buildings for the purpose of making a drain for the use of the new range of chambers which is nearly completed in Churchyard court. While busy with this work, at a short distance to the south of the circular part of the Temple Church, the pillars shown in the distance of the western view were brought to light, when it was determined to extend the digging east-



GATEWAY OF THE DRAPERS' ALMSHOUSES.

ward. This has led to the opening out of the basement of the south side of the chapel which formerly stood here.

The remains are in a very perfect state of preservation; and in one part the white plaster, with red lines, which represent stone courses, is as perfect as if it had been completed but a short time ago. The pavement seems at some time to have been removed; but it was originally situate at about five feet seven inches below the present surface of Lamb's-buildings. The space which has been dug out has been filled in with chalk and rubbish; probably the remains of the roof, &c., of the chapel. At the west end are steps, some of them much worn, which seem to have communicated with a doorway that formerly existed in the round of the church.

This chapel anciently opened upon the cloisters, and formed a private medium of communication between the convent of the Temple and the church. A plan of the chapel will be found in the "Vetusta Monumenta" of the Society of Antiquaries.

It was there that the Papal legate and the English Bishops had conference respecting the affairs of the English Church; and in this chapel Almeric de Montfort, the Pope's Chaplain, who was imprisoned by Edward I., was set at liberty at the instance of the Roman pontiff.

GATEWAY OF THE DRAPERS' ALMSHOUSES, CRUTCHEDFRIARS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great changes which have been made in this ancient district, even since worthy John Stowe's days, and the marvellous alterations which are going forward in our own transition times, there are still some nooks left which will repay the trouble of a visit to those who take an interest in old-world matters. In Crutchedfriars some very old houses still remain, and close by stands the Church of St. Olave, Hart street, in which that amusing gossip Samuel Pepys and some other persons of note lie buried; this building is one of the few City churches which escaped the Great Fire of 1666. Formerly persons of rank and condition resided in this neighbourhood, but fashion departed from Crutchedfriars, Bevis Marks, and the places adjoining, and the space became occupied with warehouses and other places of business; and even where the dwellings have been left standing they have in most instances become crowded by the families of the poor and struggling classes. Notwithstanding all these vicissitudes, one range of building has been allowed to stand, very nearly in its original state, for upwards of three centuries and a quarter: this is the almshouse erected by a distinguished citizen, the central part of which forms the subject of the accompanying Engraving, but which, before these lines came before our readers, will probably have been demolished and have passed away, as have many other matters of interest connected with the old metropolis.

Vague as are many of the accounts of London in the ages which have gone by, the shadow of the past would have fallen far more densely but for the valuable records of Stowe, and to his pages we turn for some particulars of the Drapers' Almshouses and the surrounding locality, and find the following notes:—"Now in the second way from Aldgate toward the south, or pump aforesaid (Aldgate pump), lieth Fennechurch-street, on the right hand whereof, somewhat west from the south end of Belzetter's-lane, is the Ironmongers' Hall.

On the left hand, or south side, even by the gate and wall of the City, runneth down a lane to the Tower-hill, the south part whereof is called Woodroffe-lane; and out of this lane, toward the west, a street called Hart-street, in the south end corner thereof sometime stood one house of Crouched (or Crossed) Friars, founded by Ralph Hosiar and William Sabernes about the year 1293. Stephen, the tenth Prior of the Holy Trinity in London, granted three tenements for 13s. 8d. by the year unto the said Ralph Hosiar and William Sabernes, who afterwards became friars of St. Crosse. These friars founded their house in place of certain tenements purchased of Richard Wimbury, the twelfth Prior of the Holy Trinity, in the year 1319."

During the course of several centuries the church and monastery of the Crutched Friars was in much repute, and many persons of wealth and eminence were buried within the precincts. A long list of their names will be found in Stowe's "Survey." The church and house of these friars stood close to the building which Sir John Milborn founded; but, before noticing the circumstances connected with the charity, it may be worth while to give a brief account of the Drapers' Company, of which Sir John was for many years an active member. This worshipping company has for several centuries been famous. Fitz-Alwin, the first Mayor of London, and who filled that office for several years, was a draper, and the history of the City shows that the number of drapers who have occupied the post of chief magistrate has been far greater than those engaged in any other business.

Although the Drapers' Company is stated in their ordinance to have been founded in the year 1332, in the sixth of Henry VI., as a society they existed much earlier, as is proved by the circumstance that Fitz-Alwin left them, as a company, all his lands in St. Mary Botham as early as the reign of Henry I. Tolson and Hardell also, who were Mayors in 1252 and 1253, were both drapers, and, it is said, members. The fact of the drapers being thus early associated is also shown in other ways. In the thirtieth year of the reign of Edward I. we find them pleading respecting the fair at Westminster; in 1363 they contributed the then large sum of fifty marks towards the King's French wars. In 1364 they received their first charter of incorporation.

The number of members sent by the Drapers to the Common Council in the reign of Edward III., and the strict order of the Mayor of London, in 1385, to separate drapery from tailoring and the weaving business, as well as other notices, indicate the flourishing state of this trade, and prove that at that period they had taken a foremost rank amongst the City livery companies. The ancient members of this trade lived chiefly in and about Cornhill, and by the name of the "Fraternity of the Drapers of Cornhill," had their guild in St. Mary's Bethlehem-Hospital Church, Bishopsgate-street. The introduction of the Dutch and Flemish weavers occasioned the settlement afterwards of many of the drapers in Candlewick ward, and ultimately the building of the first Drapers' Hall, in St. Swithin's-lane, which was the situation in which it originally stood; they were not, however, confined to this spot, for several of them occupied much of Birchinn-lane, and extended thence more or less all the way to the Stocks-market. In the reign of Henry V. the drapers had mostly removed from Cornhill, which, Stowe says, had then become a principal place of the dealers in "friperies," or "upholders," that sold old apparel and household stuff. The locality had, indeed, become like the Petticoat-lane of our times.

In 1518 the trade of the drapers was almost exclusively within the City. There were then engaged in this business in Westminster two persons, in Shoreditch one, and without Temple-bar four; and it is worthy of remark that females were members, and were allowed to take apprentices. In 1503 is an order that every brother or sister of the fellowship taking an apprentice shall present him to the wardens and the hall, and pay 13s. 4d., instead of 8s. 4d., which was formerly the fee.

In 1521 this company contributed, but not willingly, to the purchasing and fitting of the ships which were intended to be sent to Newfoundland under the command of Sebastian Cabot, whose father, John Cabot, had discovered that territory in 1491. The drapers made manly and singular excuses in order to escape this expense. A message from Cardinal Wolsey showing the will of Henry VIII. in the matter soon reduced them to submission. This year (1521) Sir John Milborn was Mayor. In 1527 the company's attention appears to have been considerably occupied in disputes with the Crutched Friars. Sir John Milborn, who had been several times master of the drapers, had purchased ground of this religious fraternity near their church, and built thirteen almshouses upon it for

decayed drapers, of which he left the company trustees. There was to be an anniversary obit kept for him in the said church, and the thirteen almsmen, or "bedemen" as they are called in Sir John's will, were also to say prayers daily at his tomb there. The disputes seem to have been about the extent of the ground purchased and the due performances of the religious services. The quarrel continued until the time of the suppression of the monasteries.

On the site of the church of the Crutched Friars there was in Stowe's time a carpenter's yard, a tennis-ground, and such like. The friars' hall was made a glasshouse, wherein was made "glass of divers sorts to drink in;" which house, in the year 1575, on the 4th of September, burst into a terrible fire, "which there were practised all means possible to quench; notwithstanding, as the same house, in a small time before, had consumed a large quantity of wood by making of glasses, now itself having within it forty thousand billets of wood, was all consumed to the stone walls, which nevertheless hindered the fire from spreading any further." After alluding to the foundation of the almshouses, Stowe mentions that the dwellings were to be rent-free, and 2s. 4d. to be given to each man and his wife, if they had wives, the first day of every month for ever; and to the persons who had the house over the gate 4s. every month. "Besides, he appointed every Sunday for ever thirteen penny loaves of white bread to be given in the parish church of St. Edward in Lombard-street to thirteen poor people of that parish; and the like thirteen loaves to be given in the parish church of Cornhill, and in either parish one load of charcoal of thirty sacks in the load, and this gift to be continued for ever; for performance whereof by the Master and Wardens of the Drapers' Company in London he assured unto them and their successors twenty-three messuages and tenements and eighteen garden plots, with the proviso that if they perform not those points above mentioned the said tenements and gardens to remain to the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London." In connection with this bequest Stowe tells that "the drapers have unlawfully sold these tenements and garden plots, and the poor be wronged."

The Drapers' Almshouse is a quaint-looking building of brick, partly faced with stone; the roof of red tiles is highly pitched, and over the gate, in stone, is a sculptured figure of the Virgin Mary surrounded by angels; below was formerly the following inscription, "Ad laudem Dei et gloriæ Virginis Mariæ hoc opus erexit Dominus Johannes Milborn, Miles et Alderman, hujus civitatis A.D. 1535." This has been exchanged for an inscription in English. There are also adjoining some shields of arms, one of them that of the Drapers' Company, which are—azure, three crowns radiated proper, each adorned with a triple crown; the supporters are two lions or, picketed; crest on a wreath, a ram couchant or, around a scroll. The motto is, "Unto God only be honour and glory."

THE OPERA SEASON.

THE system of "every theatrical manager his own critic" has of late been gaining ground immensely. Mr. Webster's opinion of Mr. Boucicault's dramas, Mr. Buckstone's opinion of Mr. Sothorn's acting, are now proclaimed daily in the playbills as a matter of course. Thus the public are told not only what they may have for their money but also why what they are invited to have is particularly and pre-eminently worth having. Can anything be more reasonable? The cheap tailors do precisely the same thing; and, were it not for its advertisements, the firm of Moses and Son would be unknown beyond the precincts of the Minorities, instead of enjoying, as it actually does, a well-earned notoriety in every part of the civilised world where the British journal penetrates.

Hitherto, however, from some mistaken notion of dignity, our leading operatic managers have usually abstained from following in the steps of the most eminent Jew clothiers and slopsellers. We do not blame them for it. We only mention the fact, and have endeavoured to some extent to explain it. It must be remembered that in many countries, and occasionally even in England, operatic managers have been men of considerable literary and artistic attainments (more than one author of distinction and some of the best composers of the day have directed operas during the last fifty years); and, not being mere speculators or at all first-rate men of business, in the Minorities sense of the word, they have not understood the great advantage of addressing themselves expressly to the ignorant and vulgar, who in all communities form the immense majority, and who, therefore, ought specially to be studied.

The competition of the music-halls, however, seems at last to have convinced our operatic impresarios of the necessity of abandoning the antiquated system of announcing only the names of the singers engaged and the works which they meditate bringing out. To be sure, the vocalists whose services are retained at the various music-halls are usually quite unknown to the public; so that there is more necessity for violently calling attention to their merits than to those of Mario and Titiens or of Fatti and Giuglini. But both systems have been tried—the quiet and the loud; and just now it is evident that the loud is everywhere found the best. Let us go with the times, and, in a spirit of becoming impartiality, let us not impute to Mr. Gye and Mr. Mapleson faults with which we should never have thought of charging Mr. Morton or Mr. Weston.

The only thing we have really to complain of in this novel plan (as applied to the opera) of "every manager his own critic" is that the critic, who is not a manager, has his hands tied by it. What is he to say to the public about the merits of Mme. Chanterelle or of Signor Squallinato when the public has been already informed, through the medium of a dozen advertisements, that the former is "a true artiste in every sense of the word," and that the latter is "decidedly the first tenor of the day?" The point is settled at once by such statements as these, and all that is left to the unhappy journalist is to paraphrase, adorn, elaborate (to intensity would be impossible) the praise so liberally accorded by the director to the singer whom he has thought fit to engage, and with whose merits he must naturally have made himself acquainted before signing the contract. To question the impresario's opinion would be unbecoming, to contradict it—impossible. Here and there we may be allowed to offer a remark in corroboration of what has already been advanced by the director; but, generally speaking, the modest part we have hitherto to play is that of echo to the managerial thunder.

The directors of the two rival Operas appear to be equally impressed with the importance of the coming International Exhibition. "It will naturally be a source of pride and gratification to the musical amateurs of this country to know," says Mr. Gye, "that among the wonders and sights of London the Opera will not suffer by comparison with that of other great capitals; but, on the contrary, that the general and received opinion will be confirmed by our guests that, whether the individual talent of its different members or the perfection of its general ensemble be considered, the Royal Italian Opera stands pre-eminent among all similar establishments. To maintain, therefore, the reputation of the Royal Italian Opera every effort will assuredly be directed, and such arrangements made as will tend to secure a most brilliant season."

As for Mr. Mapleson, he appears to have resolved to open Her Majesty's Theatre simply and solely because he imagined that if during the International Exhibition it remained shut all England would be disgraced. This is kind of Mr. Mapleson, and proves that he has a good heart. But let him speak in his own words:—"Called upon unexpectedly (name of the person or persons calling upon him not mentioned) at a moment when the metropolis was about to be deprived of the performances of Italian opera in this great and renowned Temple of the Muses, and at a time when a vast influx of visitors from all parts of the world are expected to visit London during the International Exhibition, rendering it almost a national disgrace if Her Majesty's Theatre should remain closed on such an occasion, Mr. Mapleson is deeply impressed with the responsibilities of his undertaking."

More than that, Mr. Mapleson has engaged a company which includes many well-known and admirable singers, such as the incomparable Mlle. Titiens and Mme. Guerrabella among the sopranos, the sisters Marchisio of duet celebrity, Signor Giuglini among the tenors, and Signor Gassier among the baritones. Of course, too, a number of foreigners and not a few British provincials will continue to think for years to come that Her Majesty's Theatre is still, and has never ceased to be, the Italian Opera par excellence of London.

"Its august appellation," says Mr. Mapleson, gravely "identifies it in the idea of many as the Government theatre." For the benefit of strangers, it would perhaps have been more ingenious not to have published this last remark. We observe that Mr. Mapleson is determined to make as much as possible out of the ancient reputation of the "Opera House;" and, moreover, to do great things in order to keep it up; for he informs us that, "to retain the old prestige of Her Majesty's Theatre, the nights of performance in future will be Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays!"

To increase the amount of subscriptions at the Royal Italian Opera the nights of performance at that theatre in future will be Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and there will be a double subscription list. Mr. Gye also (like Mr. Mapleson) looks back with some solemnity to the past, and tells us that he "cannot but be gratified still to find around him so many of those great artists who have long assisted to sustain the reputation of his theatre"—meaning, we presume, those veterans Mario, Ronconi, and Tamburini; as well as Mme. Didici, who, though she has been many years at the Royal Italian Opera, is still quite and eminently in her prime. Nor can the veterans—veterans as they are, and though they have scarcely two voices between the three—possibly be replaced with advantage. These singers of a past or passing generation have genius, minus a certain amount of singing power. Many of the younger tenors and baritones have more singing power, but no genius at all.

But it is in those singers who are either quite new to the theatre, or who have joined it not earlier than some time during the last half-dozen years, that Mr. Gye's company is especially strong—such as Graziani (probably at this moment the best male singer in the world) and Faure, Mme. Molan-Carvalho and Mlle. Patti. Three vocalists, entirely new to England, are also announced to appear—Mlles. Marie Battu and Gordosa and Signor Delle-Sedie.

To return to the new and improved system of advertising adopted by the rival operatic managers, let us invite the notice of our readers to the following curiously elaborate eulogium on Mlle. Titiens:—

It is seldom that Nature lavishes on one person all the varied gifts which are needed to form a great soprano. A voice whose register entitles it to claim this rank is of the rarest order. Melodious quality and power, which are not less essential than an extended register, are equally scarce. Musical knowledge, executive finish, and perfect intonation are indispensable; and to these the prima donna should add dramatic force and adaptability, and a large measure of personal grace. Even these rare endowments will not suffice unless they are illumined by the fire of genius. By one alone, of living artists, has this high ideal been reached—by Mlle. Titiens.

The manager of Her Majesty's writes with a bigger and broader-nibbed pen, and is a greater hand at a flourish than we can pretend to be; but he does not go beyond us in admiration of Mlle. Titiens, who is certainly by far the greatest dramatic singer of the day. She can prove that, however, at any time, and therefore does not require to be praised by the director of the theatre where she is engaged, and who, in accordance with directorial custom, would praise her almost as much if she were only a vocalist of ordinary merit, like so many others who, without deserving it, have been lauded to the skies.

May we here be allowed to take the liberty of hazarding one small objection to the style of the two operatic programmes just issued? Or rather, without making any direct complaint, may we be permitted to venture to suggest that the sort of puff adopted by the proprietor of a place called "The Pavilion," is more attractive and more amusing (while it is, at the same time, couched in more elegant phraseology) than anything in the same line that has yet been hit upon by Mr. Mapleson or Mr. Gye? In calling attention to the approaching termination of the engagement of "Miss Constance," the chief of the Pavilion, quietly expresses a hope that, ere this engagement finally expire, "the opportunity (i.e., of hearing Miss Constance) may not be lost by those who have not yet participated in the delight occasioned by her sweet melodies."

Now, what can be pretty if that isn't? We never heard Miss Constance, and probably never shall; whereas we have often heard Mlle. Titiens, and shall hear her again as often as possible. But the plain neat little appeal—almost touching in its simplicity and innocence—with which Miss Constance has inspired her director goes to the heart. The elaborate commendation of which Mlle. Titiens is made the subject dazzles for a moment and is then forgotten. One cannot help feeling a liking for Constance; but, in spite of the managerial praise, we are still convinced that Mlle. Titiens is the greatest singer.

PRESENT TO HER MAJESTY.—Eleven head of cattle arrived last week from India as a present to Her Majesty from the Maharajah of Mysore; they comprise a buffalo bull and bullock, two buffalo cows and two calves; two Brahmin cows, a bull, and a calf, and a cross-bred cow. These beasts were brought to England under the care of a soldier of the 1st Queen's Dragon Guards, named Bentley, and are now at Shaw Farm, under the care of Mr. Teit, the Royal bailiff, and the soldier is detained there in order to instruct the herdsmen in their management. These peculiar animals appear none the worse for their voyage, which occupied 130 days. They vary in size, some being diminutive, and others are of a large species. They are considered very beautiful specimens of their kind, and have already been inspected by Her Majesty. They will remain at Shaw Farm until they are determined to which of the Royal farms they will be sent.

THE 2ND LIFE GUARDS.—In consequence of the various complaints made against the conduct and discipline of the 2nd Life Guards, under the command of Colonel Mountjoy Martin, the authorities at the Horse Guards have considered it necessary to institute a court of inquiry, which is already sitting, to investigate every particular relative to the interior economy of the regiment. The court is composed of General Lawson, inspecting-general of cavalry, President; Lord George Paget, commanding the cavalry at Aldershot; and General Horsford. The court sat for some time on Friday week at the Cavalry Barracks, Spital, and again on Saturday, when the proceedings were adjourned, in consequence of the regiment being under orders to march from Windsor to Regent's Park Barracks. Nearly every officer will undergo a strict examination, as well as every other person connected with the recent alleged breach of discipline. Several of the officers have already been examined, but as the proceedings will be conducted with closed doors, the facts elicited will not be made known until the decision is promulgated from head-quarters.

PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.—A meeting of the Royal National Life-boat Institution was held on Thursday at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Rewards amounting to £74 12s. were granted to the crews of various life-boats of the institution and shore-boats for saving fifty-seven lives from different wrecks on various parts of the coasts of the United Kingdom during the past month. The Redcar life-boat of the society had likewise succeeded recently in bringing a derelict vessel safely into harbour. It was reported that the institution was about sending to the International Exhibition a model of its life-boat and transporting-carriage and various other articles for saving life from shipwreck. A very large shipwreck chart of the British Isles for the past year would also be exhibited there by the society. During the past month the institution had sent a new life-boat and transporting-carriage to Dundee. The cost (£300) of the same had been zealously collected by Mrs. Hartley, of Bideford. Another life-boat was ready to be sent to Kingstown, the expense of which had been collected by Miss S. H. Perle Cater. The institution decided on forming a life-boat station at Port Leven, near the Lizard, Mr. Roberts, M.P., having generously promised to contribute £150 towards the expense of the same.

BARBISH COLUMBIA.—Long accounts have lately been received from British Columbia, the burden of which is this:—The out-turn of the gold-fields is boundless there, and the minimum rate of unskilled labour has risen to twelve and twenty shillings per diem. Men with small capitals, and men who can work with their hands, are alike in great demand. White-handed men with no money, who can only work with their heads, are worth just nothing at all.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE KENNEDY CASE.

The great legal event during the last few days has been the trial of a cause "Kennedy v. Swinfen." The plaintiff is Mr. Charles Rann Kennedy, whose name is well known to the students of a style of literature just passing out of the memory of modern men. Mr. Kennedy was one of the brightest ornaments of that school of writers originated by Christopher North. Middle-aged litterateurs may yet remember when it was thought the greatest and cleverest of human achievements to translate "The Wake of Tolly Roe" into Greek, and when on being challenged to make a pun, say on St. Paul's Church, it was deemed worthy of immortality to say, "Paulo majora canamus." In those days, too, it was high taste to print conversations spiced with scathing personalities reflecting upon absent celebrities, and to introduce, "Tim, ye scoundrel! pass the whisky!" or "And now I'll trouble you for the claret," about every second page; and in those days Mr. Kennedy was a great man, as any one may discover by a reference to a now happily forgotten work entitled "Brallaghan; or, the Deipnosophists." But this fashion of writing failed, as every style of that kind, in which the authors simply write to please themselves and their own circle and display contempt for all the outside world, must fail, sooner or later. But Mr. Kennedy, besides being a literary gentleman in his way, and an accomplished classic scholar to boot, was also a barrister, and, when people grew used to finding that comic songs could be translated into Greek, and ceased to feel interest in the fact, devoted himself to a forensic career. He was heard of in the great Swinfen case, in which a Mrs. Swinfen, the claimant of a large property, sought to set aside a compromise entered into on her behalf but without her consent—indeed, in opposition to her wish—by her counsel, then Sir F. Thesiger, now Lord Chelmsford. The point at issue was one of the simplest. In our columns of the period we stated the law of the case exactly as it was decided some time afterwards by Lord Campbell, and as, indeed, any one else possessed of the ordinary comprehension of the relative positions of counsel and client might have predicted fearlessly. But to gain this decision Mr. Kennedy indulged in the most virulent abuse not only of Sir F. Thesiger but even of Sir C. Crosswell, who had presided as Judge on the trial which ended in the compromise. So far from this assisting his cause, it served rather to create a prejudice against Mr. Kennedy and his client, procuring indeed a dignified rebuke from the noble Chief Justice who decided the cause in his favour. Thus ended the first act of the drama. The public had nearly forgotten the Swinfen case, Mr. Kennedy, and all, when the announcement was published of the trial of the cause "Kennedy v. Brown" (Mrs. Brown was formerly Mrs. Swinfen) at the Warwick Assizes. Mr. Kennedy claims of Mrs. Swinfen twenty thousand pounds for his professional labours in the great Swinfen case, and also on an account stated. The italicised words are of the greatest importance, for this reason: No barrister can recover at law a single penny for his services to his client, although no law interferes to prevent his accepting a fee to any amount, or, on the other hand, to decline business from any person whomsoever. The system is that of the relative position instituted and maintained, in the classic ages between the Roman patrician "patron" and his plebeian "client"—from whom, indeed, we deduce the modern term. Mr. Kennedy appeared as his own counsel, to support his claim against his former client. Mrs. Swinfen had admitted having executed a deed conveying to him at her decease the reversion of the Swinfen estates recovered by his means. According to his statement, she had promised, in addition, the sum sought to be recovered, and although she had since retracted such promise, she had offered him £10,000 in discharge of his claims. The defendant pleaded, firstly, denial of the account stated; secondly, that the agreement was void by reason of Mr. Kennedy's having been guilty of "maintenance;" and, thirdly, a similar voidance by his having acted as attorney and solicitor. The only evidence of the alleged contract was Mr. Kennedy's own oral testimony, denied as strongly upon this point by Mrs. Swinfen. He acknowledged having been upon terms of intimate friendship with his client, having written verses in her album, received rings from her, and ultimately having threatened to publish against her a censorious and abusive, if not satirical, pamphlet, entitled "The Serpent of Swinfen, showing the foul fraud and robbery by the woman who possesses the Swinfen estate; showing, also, the nature of his connection with her, and how she acquired the estate, and how the serpent has stung her benefactor." Upon being compelled, in cross-examination, to this admission, he said to the opposing counsel, Mr. Macaulay—"You have opened a case of feeling that must now go on." To which Mr. Macaulay replied, "I have opened a case of indelible libel against you." "Yes," rejoined Kennedy, "and such as this woman's husband dare not take any notice of." This last sentence indicates what we must consider the worst among many bad features of Kennedy's case. Without absolutely committing himself to the grossest and most malignant scandal, it is undeniable that this man actually endeavoured in open court to asperse the fair fame of the lady whose cause he had undertaken, and whose most unreserved confidence, even to the extent, as Mrs. Swinfen admitted, of sisterly affection, he had not only sought but enjoyed. Having the opportunity of cross-examining her, he did not scruple even to drive her to the admission that on one occasion their cheeks had met. There could have been no object but that of the savage desire of inflicting pain in forcing such an avowal. Every man of common feeling must know what would be thought of any one forcing such a confession publicly from a woman, but how much more detestable is the proceeding when the man is the counsel and the lady the client? No wonder that Lord Chief Justice Cockburn gave vent to manly indignation in his reprehension of Kennedy's conduct. We quote a few lines from the summing-up:

striking instance of the need that there is that this rule should continue to be fixed, and that no temptations should be thrown out to counsel which should tend to be subversive of principle, and likely to result in dishonour, than the painful case which had been before the jury that day. A man of genius, a poet, an orator, a lawyer, possessed of almost every faculty and accomplishment needful to be possessed by a scholar and a gentleman, humbling himself as the plaintiff in this cause, obliged to expose himself in a court of justice to obtain that from the defendant which, if his statements are true, her sense of honour, her sense of justice, might have prompted her to give, without those terrible disclosures.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed. But a certain legal point was reserved—namely, as to whether the plaintiff's charges for work done as counsel could legally support the claim on account stated. If this be not so, and this point will have to be decided by a court of very different ways of thinking to those employed by the Warwickshire jury, the plaintiff's case will fall to the ground after all. We have not much doubt of the issue, unless, indeed, in the interim Mr. Kennedy should act with a degree of prudence which he does not appear hitherto to have displayed, and compromise further litigation by accepting, should such again be offered, a munificent sum in discharge of his unparalleled claim.

POLICE.

A "TREMENDOUS HEADKICK."—A young lady was charged with having attempted to commit suicide. It appeared that on the previous evening about nine o'clock she was walking along the Mile-end road with her lover, with whom she had some slight difference in consequence of her alleging that he had had too much to drink. They happened to be crossing a canal bridge at the time, and it suddenly occurred to her to commit suicide. She leaped the parapet. Her lover threw off his coat and hat and followed. Failing to find her at first, he dived again, in the true Adelpi fashion, and was more successful. Assistance was provided, and the pair were safely landed. So far was romantic enough. But the lady was instantly captured by a policeman and taken to the station-house for the offence above mentioned, while the gentleman was left to shiver on his way home, minus his hat and coat, which of course had been instantly stolen. The lady was discharged after a severe reproof by the magistrate, and the "lovers' quarrel" appeared to be made up at least so far as could be judged from the energy with which her preserver kissed her the moment that operation could be performed.

HOUSEBREAKING.—Thomas McCarthy, a very decent-looking man of thirty-six, was charged with breaking into a house.

Mr. Thomas Howell, of White-row, Whitechapel, left home with his wife and brother at three o'clock on Monday, after carefully securing the doors and windows of their apartments, and returned again at a quarter to five. The wife preceded the husband, and on getting indoors she was apprised by a widow living in the house that she had just before seen a strange man look in at one of the windows, and then enter the passage. This she much alarmed her, and while hesitating what to do she saw her bedroom door open, and the prisoner thrust out his head, with the evident intention of escaping. She exclaimed, "You scoundrel, what are you doing in my bedroom?" and grasped him by the collar, but the prisoner tried to force his way past her, and a violent struggle took place between them, the woman retaining her hold of the prisoner till they got into the street, and screaming "Stop thief!" as loud as she could. Mr. Howell came up at the moment, and, seeing his wife engaged in such a contest, ran up to secure her assailant. The prisoner, however, shook off Mrs. Howell, and darted down the street, pursued by the husband and his brother, who secured him, brought him back again, and handed him over to Sergeant Copping; the prisoner asserting that he was innocent, and declaring he did not know what he was taken for. Mrs. Howell, on examining her bedroom, found the door, which was locked at three o'clock, prised open, the lock broken and part of the woodwork torn away, and two locks in a chest of drawers broken; one of the drawers was on the floor, while its contents were thrown about the apartment; and the other drawer was partially drawn out, and its contents, consisting of her husband's and her own wearing apparel, were lifted out and left hanging from it, ready for removal.

Mr. Leigh committed the prisoner for trial.

EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE OF CHILD-STEALING.—A respectable-looking woman, named Mary Ann West, was charged with stealing a child under the following singular circumstances.

Elizabeth Lett said that she lodged at 13, Suffolk-court, in the Mint. On Tuesday afternoon, while out after work, she met the prisoner, who told her that she was in great distress, and had no home to go to. Witness took her home, and, after giving her a portion of her dinner, told her she might have part of her room until she provided herself with a better home. The prisoner seemed thankful for the offer, and said she would assist her in any way she could. About seven o'clock witness had occasion to go out, when she wrapped up the baby in her cloak and handed it to the prisoner, begging her to keep him quiet until she returned. About half an hour afterwards witness came back, when she was surprised to find the prisoner and her baby gone. She instantly gave information, and had since discovered the prisoner in bed with the baby in the workhouse.

Marian, the porter of St. George's Workhouse, said that about half-past ten o'clock on the previous night the prisoner applied for admission. She had the child in her arms, and said that she had walked up from Gravesend with it that afternoon, and that she was so weary and exhausted that she could get no further. Although the house was closed for the night, he got the keys and admitted her and the child. She gave her name as Ann Macken, and said that the child was her own, and was twelve months old. In the morning, when the time arrived for the usuals to leave the house, she said that she was very unwell, and that she had no nourishment to give the child from the breast. Witness sent for the surgeon, who advised that she and the child should remain in the house for a few days. The prisoner was then taken into one of the wards by the assistant-matron. At twelve o'clock the prosecutrix came to the gate in a state of great excitement, stating that she had lost her child, and gave such a description of the circumstances that he at once suspected that the child the prisoner had was hers. He accordingly took her to the ward, where she recognised the prisoner in bed with her child and gave her into custody. Mr. Burcham asked the prisoner what answer she had to make to the charge?

The prisoner replied—Nothing; only she was very drunk.

Martin denied that. He should not have admitted her had she been so, but have given her in custody to the police and taken care of the child.

The prosecutrix here said that when she gave the prisoner the child it was wrapped up in a warm cloak. That was now gone.

Mr. Burcham asked Martin whether the cloak was on the child when he admitted the prisoner?

Martin replied that he could not tell, as the prisoner had the child wrapped in the end of her shawl. The assistant-matron would be able to answer that question.

Mr. Burcham remanded the prisoner.

attend her to England in the capacity of lady's-maid. Before leaving France the Countess borrowed of her about 700*l.*, promising to repay the sum with interest as soon as she received money from her husband. The Countess took lodgings in London and was shortly afterwards confined. When she recovered she proposed to the applicant that the latter should take charge of the infant, bring it up, and be paid so much yearly for its maintenance. Not long afterwards the Countess left her lodgings, and from that time until the present she had not been heard of. The result was that the applicant was wholly destitute, and had to part with all her clothes except those she then wore to procure food for herself and the child. From what had come to her knowledge recently she had reason to believe that the father of the child was a person of an inferior rank in life, whatever might be the claim of the mother to the rank she assumed.

The applicant was advised to go to the French Consulate, and there make her statement. A small amount was given her from the poor-box to relieve her present necessities.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The great success of the new Bank of India for £200,000 has been the topic of much discussion this week. The total amount tendered for it is £200,000, consequently numerous applicants will be refused a portion of the stock applied for. Many persons have over-sold themselves, and the price has fallen to £23 1/2 per cent. Since we last wrote nearly £200,000 worth of stock arrived from various quarters, but chiefly from Australia, the West India Co., &c., and the whole of the gold at hand has been disposed of to the Bank of England, the stock in which is now nearly £1,000,000. Although the price of the stock is now £23 1/2 per cent, it is expected to be forwarded to Turkey on account of the new loan, the price is certainly not what it would be in the general market. This week there is more inquiry for it, at £23 1/2 per cent, for the best commercial paper. The demand for silver has fallen off, and the quotations are rather lower.

In the market for Home Securities the demand this week has been somewhat restricted, whilst Indian stocks, &c., have ruled inactive, however, prices, almost generally may be considered steady. Consols for Money have realised 94 1/2. Dittos for Account, 93 1/2; India Stock has sold at 24 1/2 to 25; Exchequer Bills, 17 1/2 to 18 per cent; and the new Bank of India stock, 24 1/2 to 25. The Five and a Half per Cent. 1881-82. The Bonds have sold at 24 1/2 to 25 per cent.

A payment of £100,000 Viet Nam Railway Debenture Loan has been made.

The Indian Council have succeeded in disposing of a further sum of £200,000 in the same loan.

It is stated that the new Peruvian loan will not make its appearance for some time.

The exchange for bankers' bills at New York comes at 112 to 112 1/2. The premium on gold at the latest dates was 1 1/2 to 1 1/2. Nearly the whole of the Continental exchange continues to be nominal. Moorish Scrip has been in good request, at 6 to 6 1/2 per cent; but Italian Scrip has continued heavy, and the quotation has fallen to 3 1/2. Other Foreign Bonds have moved off slowly, yet no material change has taken place in their value. Brazilian Five per Cent. have realised 10 1/2; Ditto, Four per Cent, 10 1/2; Russian Three per Cent, 9 1/2; Russian Four per Cent, 9 1/2; Ditto, New Spain, 7 1/2; Venezuelan Three per Cent, 2 1/2; Dutch Four per Cent, 1 1/2; and Italian Five per Cent, 1 1/2.

There has been a fair amount of activity in the demand for Joint-stock Bank Shares. Agria and Union Service have marked 85 Bank of Egypt, 84; Colonial, 80; London Chartered of Australia, New, 25; London Joint-stock, 35; London and South Africa, 18; National Bank of India, 18; Oriental, 18; Ottoman, 27 1/2 ex div; and Union of London, 32 1/2.

Colonial Government Securities have ruled firm. Canada Six per Cent, 1877-82, have been done at 110; Ditto, Five per Cent, 1894-99, New South Wales Five per Cent, 1871 to 1878, 94; Nova Scotia 4 1/2 per Cent, 1871-81, 86 per Cent, 100 ex div.

In the M & A Market the demand has been firm for many numerous. Anglo Mexican shares have sold at 18; Crystal Palace, 35; Ditto, Six per Cent Debentures, 107; East India Irrigation and Canal, 11; General S. & S., 25; National Discount, 51; Nerbudda Canal, 44; Peel River Land and Mineral, 57; Red Sea and India Telegraph, 37; and Rio Janeiro City Improvements, 31 ex option.

The Railway Share Market has been dull, and a fall of from 1 to 1 1/2 per cent has taken place in the quotations. The "culls" for the present month amount to £20,207.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The arrivals of English wheat have been very moderate; nevertheless, the demand for most kinds has ruled inactive, & at about last week's currency. There has been rather more inquiry for foreign wheats, at mostly full prices. In floating cargoes very little has been offered for sale, and a low value. Fine barley has moved off steadily, at previous rates, but other qualities have ruled heavy. No change has taken place in the demand for or value of oats, the supplies of which have not increased. Malt has not on former terms, but the inquiry has been restricted to moderate amounts. The market has ruled rather stationary. The demand for flour has not improved, and American parcels have gone rather cheaper.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, new, 55*s.* to 61*s.*; ditto, white, new, 55*s.* to 60*s.*; grinding barley, new, 55*s.* to 58*s.*; ditto, 58*s.* to 60*s.*; malt, 55*s.* to 58*s.*; feed oats, 45*s.* to 50*s.*; potatoes, 24*s.* to 26*s.*; tick beans, 35*s.* to 38*s.*; grey peas, 35*s.* to 37*s.*; white ditto, 35*s.* to 41*s.*; turn rape, 40*s.* to 45*s.*; country marks, 35*s.* to 41*s.*; town households, 45*s.* to 48*s.* per 280*lb.*

CATTLE.—The trade has continued in the most inactive state, and prices, generally, have had a cooling tendency. Beef, from 2*s.* 10*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.*; mutton, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 8*d.*; lamb, 4*s.* 4*d.* to 7*s.*; veal, 4*s.* 2*d.* to 5*s.* 2*d.*; pork, 3*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 8*d.*; to link the offal.

NEWCASTLE AND LIVERPOOL.—These markets have ruled heavy, as follows: Beef, from 2*s.* 10*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.*; mutton, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 8*d.*; lamb, 4*s.* 4*d.* to 7*s.*; veal, 4*s.* 2*d.* to 5*s.* 2*d.*; pork, 3*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 8*d.*; to link the offal.

TEA.—The latest arrivals state that the total shipments to England amounted to 75,000 cwt. against 65,000 cwt. in the previous season. For most kinds the demand is inactive, and prices are barely supported.

SUGAR.—A scarcely any change has taken place in the value of raw sugar, but the trade is by no means active. Refined goods move off heavily, at 4*s.* per cwt. for common brown lumps. This stock is 52,500 tons, against 51,720 tons last year.

COPPER.—The market continues extremely firm, at extreme quotations.

RICE.—The inquiry is much restricted. Prices, however, are supported.

PROVISIONS.—Irish butter, owing to the want of supply, is almost nominal in value. Foreign moves off steadily, at 12*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.* for best, and 11*s.* 6*d.* for inferior. All other provisions are a slow inquiry.

TALLOW.—P. & Y. C. on the spot, has sold at 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*; and for delivery during the last three months, 4*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.

OLIVE OIL.—In need of oil in request, at 27*s.* to 27*s.* 6*d.* on the spot; rape is being at from 26*s.* to 26*s.* 6*d.*; olive, 25*s.* to 25*s.* 6*d.*; and English, 25*s.* to 25*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

SPICES.—There is a fair inquiry for nut, at previous rates. Proof Lewards, is 7*s.* to 8*s.* 4*d.*; proof East India, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 7*d.* per gallon; brandy, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 7*d.* per gallon; and for export, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 7*d.* per gallon.

HAY AND STRAW.—Meadow hay, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*; clover, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*; and straw, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* per ton. A fair demand.

COALS.—Best house coals, 10*s.* to 12*s.*; 17*s.*; 20*s.*; 22*s.*; 24*s.*; 26*s.*; 28*s.*; 30*s.*; 32*s.*; 34*s.*; 36*s.*; 38*s.*; 40*s.*; 42*s.*; 44*s.*; 46*s.*; 48*s.*; 50*s.*; 52*s.*; 54*s.*; 56*s.*; 58*s.*; 60*s.*; 62*s.*; 64*s.*; 66*s.*; 68*s.*; 70*s.*; 72*s.*; 74*s.*; 76*s.*; 78*s.*; 80*s.*; 82*s.*; 84*s.*; 86*s.*; 88*s.*; 90*s.*; 92*s.*; 94*s.*; 96*s.*; 98*s.*; 100*s.*; 102*s.*; 104*s.*; 106*s.*; 108*s.*; 110*s.*; 112*s.*; 114*s.*; 116*s.*; 118*s.*; 120*s.*; 122*s.*; 124*s.*; 126*s.*; 128*s.*; 130*s.*; 132*s.*; 134*s.*; 136*s.*; 138*s.*; 140*s.*; 142*s.*; 144*s.*; 146*s.*; 148*s.*; 150*s.*; 152*s.*; 154*s.*; 156*s.*; 158*s.*; 160*s.*; 162*s.*; 164*s.*; 166*s.*; 168*s.*; 170*s.*; 172*s.*; 174*s.*; 176*s.*; 178*s.*; 180*s.*; 182*s.*; 184*s.*; 186*s.*; 188*s.*; 190*s.*; 192*s.*; 194*s.*; 196*s.*; 198*s.*; 200*s.*; 202*s.*; 204*s.*; 206*s.*; 208*s.*; 210*s.*; 212*s.*; 214*s.*; 216*s.*; 218*s.*; 220*s.*; 222*s.*; 224*s.*; 226*s.*; 228*s.*; 230*s.*; 232*s.*; 234*s.*; 236*s.*; 238*s.*; 240*s.*; 242*s.*; 244*s.*; 246*s.*; 248*s.*; 250*s.*; 252*s.*; 254*s.*; 256*s.*; 258*s.*; 260*s.*; 262*s.*; 264*s.*; 266*s.*; 268*s.*; 270*s.*; 272*s.*; 274*s.*; 276*s.*; 278*s.*; 280*s.*; 282*s.*; 284*s.*; 286*s.*; 288*s.*; 290*s.*; 292*s.*; 294*s.*; 296*s.*; 298*s.*; 300*s.*; 302*s.*; 304*s.*; 306*s.*; 308*s.*; 310*s.*; 312*s.*; 314*s.*; 316*s.*; 318*s.*; 320*s.*; 322*s.*; 324*s.*; 326*s.*; 328*s.*; 330*s.*; 332*s.*; 334*s.*; 336*s.*; 338*s.*; 340*s.*; 342*s.*; 344*s.*; 346*s.*; 348*s.*; 350*s.*; 352*s.*; 354*s.*; 356*s.*; 358*s.*; 360*s.*; 362*s.*; 364*s.*; 366*s.*; 368*s.*; 370*s.*; 372*s.*; 374*s.*; 376*s.*; 378*s.*; 380*s.*; 382*s.*; 384*s.*; 386*s.*; 388*s.*; 390*s.*; 392*s.*; 394*s.*; 396*s.*; 398*s.*; 400*s.*; 402*s.*; 404*s.*; 406*s.*; 408*s.*; 410*s.*; 412*s.*; 414*s.*; 416*s.*; 418*s.*; 420*s.*; 422*s.*; 424*s.*; 426*s.*; 428*s.*; 430*s.*; 432*s.*; 434*s.*; 436*s.*; 438*s.*; 440*s.*; 442*s.*; 444*s.*; 446*s.*; 448*s.*; 450*s.*; 452*s.*; 454*s.*; 456*s.*; 458*s.*; 460*s.*; 462*s.*; 464*s.*; 466*s.*; 468*s.*; 470*s.*; 472*s.*; 474*s.*; 476*s.*; 478*s.*; 480*s.*; 482*s.*; 484*s.*; 486*s.*; 488*s.*; 490*s.*; 492*s.*; 494*s.*; 496*s.*; 498*s.*; 500*s.*; 502*s.*; 504*s.*; 506*s.*; 508*s.*; 510*s.*; 512*s.*; 514*s.*; 516*s.*; 518*s.*; 520*s.*; 522*s.*; 524*s.*; 526*s.*; 528*s.*; 530*s.*; 532*s.*; 534*s.*; 536*s.*; 538*s.*; 540*s.*; 542*s.*; 544*s.*; 546*s.*; 548*s.*; 550*s.*; 552*s.*; 554*s.*; 556*s.*; 558*s.*; 560*s.*; 562*s.*; 564*s.*; 566*s.*; 568*s.*; 570*s.*; 572*s.*; 574*s.*; 576*s.*; 578*s.*; 580*s.*; 582*s.*; 584*s.*; 586*s.*; 588*s.*; 590*s.*; 592*s.*; 594*s.*; 596*s.*; 598*s.*; 600*s.*; 602*s.*; 604*s.*; 606*s.*; 608*s.*; 610*s.*; 612*s.*; 614*s.*; 616*s.*; 618*s.*; 620*s.*; 622*s.*; 624*s.*; 626*s.*; 628*s.*; 630*s.*; 632*s.*; 634*s.*; 636*s.*; 638*s.*; 640*s.*; 642*s.*; 644*s.*; 646*s.*; 648*s.*; 650*s.*; 652*s.*; 654*s.*; 656*s.*; 658*s.*; 660*s.*; 662*s.*; 664*s.*; 666*s.*; 668*s.*; 670*s.*; 672*s.*; 674*s.*; 676*s.*; 678*s.*; 680*s.*; 682*s.*; 684*s.*; 686*s.*; 688*s.*; 690*s.*; 692*s.*; 694*s.*; 696*s.*; 698*s.*; 700*s.*; 702*s.*; 704*s.*; 706*s.*; 708*s.*; 710*s.*; 712*s.*; 714*s.*; 716*s.*; 718*s.*; 720*s.*; 722*s.*; 724*s.*; 726*s.*; 728*s.*; 730*s.*; 732*s.*; 734*s.*; 736*s.*; 738*s.*; 740*s.*; 742*s.*; 744*s.*; 746*s.*; 748*s.*; 750*s.*; 752*s.*; 754*s.*; 756*s.*; 758*s.*; 760*s.*; 762*s.*; 764*s.*; 766*s.*; 768*s.*; 770*s.*; 772*s.*; 774*s.*; 776*s.*; 778*s.*; 780*s.*; 782*s.*; 784*s.*; 786*s.*; 788*s.*; 790*s.*; 792*s.*; 794*s.*; 796*s.*; 798*s.*; 800*s.*; 802*s.*; 804*s.*; 806*s.*; 808*s.*; 810*s.*; 812*s.*; 814*s.*; 816*s.*; 818*s.*; 820*s.*; 822*s.*; 824*s.*; 826*s.*; 828*s.*; 830*s.*; 832*s.*; 834*s.*; 836*s.*; 838*s.*; 840*s.*; 842*s.*; 844*s.*; 846*s.*; 848*s.*; 850*s.*; 852*s.*; 854*s.*; 856*s.*; 858*s.*; 860*s.*; 862*s.*; 864*s.*; 866*s.*; 868*s.*; 870*s.*; 872*s.*; 874*s.*; 876*s.*; 878*s.*; 880*s.*; 882*s.*; 884*s.*; 886*s.*; 888*s.*; 890*s.*; 892*s.*; 894*s.*; 896*s.*; 898*s.*; 900*s.*; 902*s.*; 904*s.*; 906*s.*; 908*s.*; 910*s.*; 912*s.*; 914*s.*; 916*s.*; 918*s.*; 920*s.*; 922*s.*; 924*s.*; 926*s.*; 928*s.*; 930*s.*; 932*s.*; 934*s.*; 936*s.*; 938*s.*; 940*s.*; 942*s.*; 944*s.*; 946*s.*; 948*s.*; 950*s.*; 952*s.*; 954*s.*; 956*s.*; 958*s.*; 960*s.*; 962*s.*; 964*s.*; 966*s.*; 968*s.*; 970*s.*; 972*s.*; 974*s.*; 976*s.*; 978*s.*; 980*s.*; 982*s.*; 984*s.*; 986*s.*; 988*s.*; 990*s.*; 992*s.*; 994*s.*; 996*s.*; 998*s.*; 1000*s.*; 1002*s.*; 1004*s.*; 1006*s.*; 1008*s.*; 1010*s.*; 1012*s.*; 1014*s.*; 1016*s.*; 1018*s.*; 1020*s.*; 1022*s.*; 1024*s.*; 1026*s.*; 1028*s.*; 1030*s.*; 1032*s.*; 1034*s.*; 1036*s.*; 1038*s.*; 1040*s.*; 1042*s.*; 1044*s.*; 1046*s.*; 1048*s.*; 1050*s.*; 1052*s.*; 1054*s.*; 1056*s.*; 1058*s.*; 1060*s.*; 1062*s.*; 1064*s.*; 1066*s.*; 1068*s.*; 1070*s.*; 1072*s.*; 1074*s.*; 1076*s.*; 1078*s.*; 1080*s.*; 1082*s.*; 1084*s.*;

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